

MARBELLA | MÁLAGA | SPAIN

N° 306 — MAY 2025

**ROUTE OF THE
VOLCANOES**

**MAKAKO IN THE
HOTEL EL PILAR**

**SPAIN'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY?**

ALPINE A110R

**EXCLUSIVE SIR DAVID
ATTENBOROUGH**

**THE HORIZON
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**ROYAL
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Contents

» GO TO SPOTLIGHT

- 20 The Route of the Volcanoes
- 38 The New Fairmont La Hacienda
- 46 Royal Botania
- 58 The Horizon Collection
- 68 Popular Hobbies
- 80 The Alpine A110 R
- 88 Sir David Attenborough
- 96 Billy Nash and Passport Properties

» GO TO TRENDS

- 104 What's Cool
- 108 Brazilian Artist Marcos Marin
- 116 Hot New Films
- 120 Cool New Series
- 124 New Book Releases
- 128 The Singularity





204



80



180



68

» GO TO LIFESTYLE

134 One of the Most Spectacular Properties in Spain

148 Blackshaw – 20 Years of Excellence in Interior Design

158 Blumarine Ready-to-Wear Summer 2025

166 Chanel Beauty

168 Dr. María José Bravo Zurita of Ginemed

172 How Pets can Help with Chronic Pain and Breakups

» GO TO ENTERPRISE

176 Spain Sotheby's International Realty

180 El Higueroón Resort South Residences

186 Business News

198 Insuring a High Value Home

200 Vibe

» GO TO GOURMET

204 Makako at the Hotel El Pilar

212 Steven Saunders of The Geranium

218 Gourmet Bytes

222 Celebrity Wines

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La Zagaleta: Exceptional villa showcasing Mediterranean architecture and spectacular sea views, set amidst exquisite landscaping. Designed with refined elegance, features expansive terraces, luxurious interiors with high-quality finishes, and natural light throughout. The large pool and beautifully appointed outdoor spaces make this home an exceptional sanctuary of tranquility, privacy, and sophisticated living. 6 beds, 7 baths, built area approx. 1,028 m², plot approx. 1,729 m². Price: €10,900,000, E&V ID: W-02ZFU5



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Río Real: Elegant villa finished to the highest standards featuring panoramic sea view and high-end amenities. 4 beds, 4 baths, built area approx. 599 m², plot approx. 1,100 m². Price €3,499,000, E&V ID W-02ZE0Q



La Zagaleta: An exquisite jewel elegantly designed with impressive sea views in the most exclusive community of Marbella. 6 beds, 7 baths, built area approx. 987 m², plot approx. 4,017 m². Price €7,990,000, E&V ID W-02FT03



Guadalmina · Beachside: Timeless Andalusian-style villa with guest wing set on an impressive plot. 7 beds, 7 baths, built approx. 650 m², plot approx. 4,000 m². Price €5,950,000, E&V ID W-02WT6U



Paraíso Alto: Luxury redefined villa with sea views in a prestigious area minutes away from the golf courses. 5 beds, 7 baths, built area approx. 445 m², plot approx. 2,010 m². Price €5,225,000, E&V ID W-02YMUU



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publisher



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PUBLISHER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ESSENTIAL!

Welcome to the 26th anniversary edition of **essential**! It's at times like this that we like to reflect on our long trajectory and to thank everyone for their valued support.

In this month's issue we tour Italy's iconic Amalfi Coast along the route of the volcanoes, stopping at Capri and making our way to Sicily.

Imagine lounging on supreme garden furniture from Royal Botania, get the feel of life on board the new Alpine A110 R, and check out Blumarine's Spring Summer Ready-to-Wear Collection .

Find out what are the most popular hobbies and what benefits are accrued

in their participation, and understand the significance of AI concept The Singularity

We bring you an exclusive interview with the admirable Sir David Attenborough and introduce you to Brazilian artist Marcos Marin and American realtor extraordinaire Billy Nash.

Marvel at the opulence of Villa Bellagio in Marbella Sierra Blanca and become acquainted with the Horizon Collection taking shape in Monte Mayor.

Finally, make a point of reserving tables at Makako in Estepona's Hotel El Pilar and Steven Saunders' The Geranium in La Cala de Mijas.

» GO TO CONTENTS



20



46



204

“THE WAY I SEE
IT, YOU SHOULD
LIVE EVERY DAY
LIKE IT’S YOUR
BIRTHDAY”

Paris Hilton



58

158





A stand-out home.

Modern style for effortless living

Beds 6	Built 613 m ²	Price: 4.995.000 €
Bath 5	Plot 1.130 m ²	Ref: DM5219-01

Villa Laurus is a bright, design-led home in a quiet part of Los Naranjos Golf, Nueva Andalucía. Just minutes from top golf courses, international schools, restaurants and Puerto Banús, it offers a relaxed lifestyle in a convenient location.

Soft tones, natural textures and large windows create a warm, welcoming feel. The open-plan living area with a sleek designer kitchen flows onto a generous terrace and garden with a saltwater pool, fire pit, barbecue/bar with TV, and jacuzzi - ideal for entertaining year-round.

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Diana Morales
Properties



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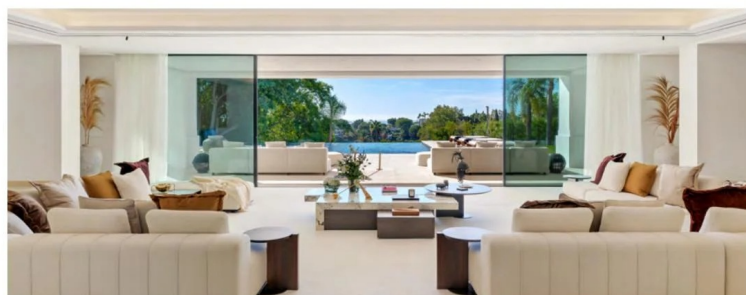
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SOLE
AGENT



Beds 7	Built 1.605 m ²	Price: 14.500.000 €
Bath 7	Plot 3.197 m ²	Ref: DM4747

Villa HG is a newly completed architectural masterpiece in La Quinta. Set on an elevated plot, it makes the most of its open sea and golf views, offering exceptional privacy within easy reach of all amenities.

With its blend of contemporary lines and timeless elegance, the home features exquisite natural materials, bespoke furnishings, and state-of-the-art technology throughout. From grand living areas and a double-height entrance to spa, gym, cinema, wine cellar and games room, every detail has been carefully considered.

Spacious yet practical, bright and welcoming, Villa HG is built for family life and entertaining in style. This is a rare opportunity to own one of Marbella's finest modern villas - fully furnished and ready to enjoy.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

**Diana Morales
Properties**



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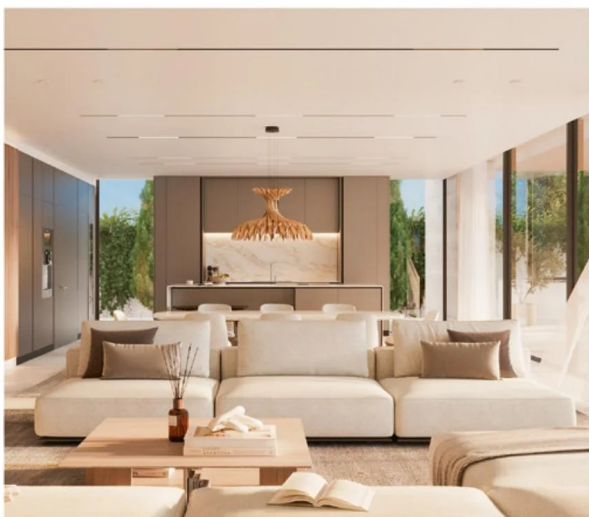
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Follow the Route of the Volcanoes, travelling along Italy's most iconic coastline. Check out luxurious garden furniture from Royal Botania. Find out what are the most popular hobbies and the benefits for their participants. Meet Sir David Attenborough who surely merits a Nobel Prize.

spotlight

« **BACK TO CONTENTS**

20 The Route of the Volcanoes
38 The New Fairmont La Hacienda
46 Royal Botania
58 The Horizon Collection
68 Popular Hobbies
80 The Alpine A110 R
88 Sir David Attenborough
96 Billy Nash and Passport Properties



EXPLORING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COAST OF ITALY THE ROUTE OF THE VOLCANOES

by Land, Sea, and Air

*A fascinating journey featuring Vesuvius, Stromboli, and Etna
as the main stars, but with so much more to discover.*

WORDS ENRIQUE SANCHO PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEN CESPEDOSA AND ARCHIVE

There are many ways and reasons to explore Italy. However, this route is not so well known and is full of surprises and beauty. In addition to volcanoes – Vesuvius,

Stromboli, and Etna, which remain active – there is also Vulcano itself, or the Aeolian Archipelago that dots the waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Along the way, you will pass the Amalfi Coast, possibly the most beautiful in Europe, visit Capri,



Petrified body



Taormina, Sicily

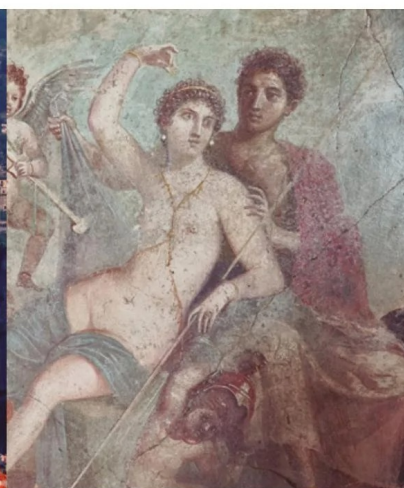
and make your way to Sicily. The journey can be done in many ways, by land, sea, or air, and you only need to choose the most suitable option. By land, it's best done on a motorcycle, renting a Vespa, in true Italian style, for instance, from Vespa Enjoy in Naples. This is the ideal way to navigate the winding Italian roads and chaotic traffic. By air, you can book a hot air balloon ride, such as with Yumping, departing from Salerno, offering views of, among other things, the majestic temples of Paestum. There are also opportunities to fly over Mount Etna in a hot air balloon. ›



Amalfi Coast



Amalfi Coast



Mural of Mars and Venus



However, the best option by far is by sea, choosing a cruise that sails the calm waters of the Mediterranean, such as one offered by CroisiEurope, with ships that hold only 140 passengers, allowing you to get close to volcanoes on islands like Stromboli, and also Lipari, Vulcano, and the other Aeolian Islands. You'll cross the Strait of Messina to approach Etna in Sicily, enjoy the Amalfi Coast from its best vantage point, or detox in Capri from the chaos of Naples, all while avoiding the hassle of packing and unpacking, with everything included on board: magnificent French cuisine, drinks with meals and at the bar, and excursions on land when necessary.

The best option might be the one offered by CroisiEurope. This cruise, departing and returning to Naples, takes you to worlds of historical and cultural wonders with every stop,

exploring the ancient ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, victims of the fury of Vesuvius, and wandering through the picturesque streets of the historic centre of Naples. You will experience an exceptional journey through the Aeolian Islands, a volcanic archipelago that is a UNESCO World Heritage site, where you can admire the impressive landscapes of the islands and coastlines, and view an active volcano like Stromboli up close, watching its permanent glow and occasional eruptions in the dark. You'll also get a close-up view of the constant fumaroles of Mount Etna in Sicily and, of course, enjoy the genuine charm of the Calabrian town of Tropea, perched on a cliff over the sea, as well as the splendour of the Amalfi Coast, with Salerno, Positano, Ravello, and Amalfi as the main players. ›



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2025

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

17th: **Grand Opening:** Under the Stars
22nd: Paloma Day

JUNE

7th: Shine Bright Like a Diamond
26th: Fallen Angels

JULY

10th: Double Touch
26th: Sky Fall

AUGUST

7th: Guri & Eider DJ
21st: Everlasting Fire

SEPTEMBER

12th: Guri & Eider DJ

OCTOBER

11th: Black Swan: **Closing Night**

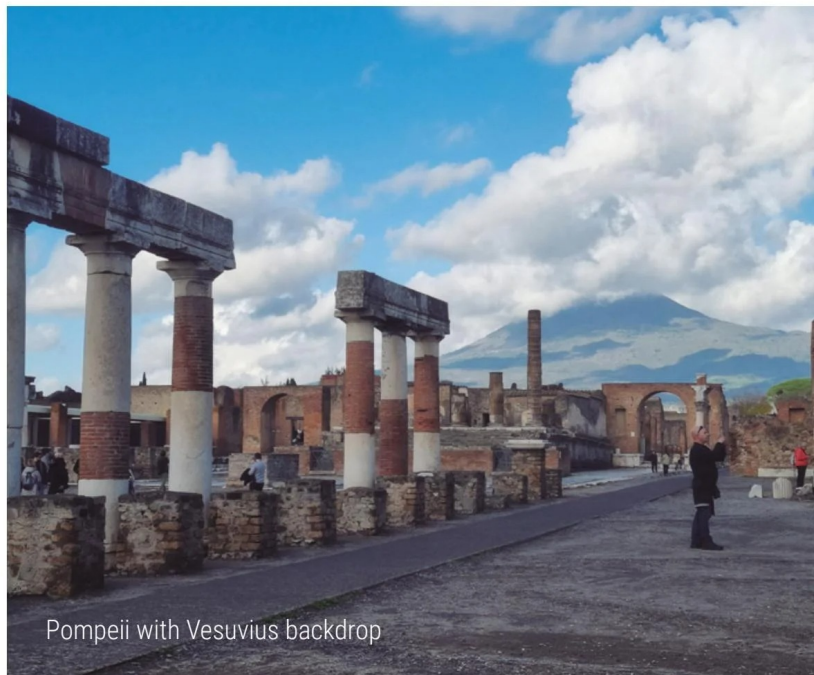


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UNDER THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS

The route begins, naturally, in Naples, but there's no need to linger too long in the city. It's rather dirty and chaotic. It's worth walking through its crowded streets, daring to enter the popular Quartieri Spagnoli, where clothes are still hung between the houses, and finding a spot to explore its palaces with their delightfully decadent air, the museums filled with treasures, the majestic boulevards despite the litter on their pavements, the Baroque splendour of the San Carlo theatre, the grandeur of its castles, especially Castel dell'Ovo, the mystery of its catacombs and underground passages, and the majestic Vesuvius in the distance overseeing it all.

The Galleria Umberto I is a must-see, as beautiful as Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, located just opposite the San Carlo theatre, the oldest continuously active opera house in the world, inaugurated in 1737, decades before La Scala in Milan and the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. Among the museums, the Museum and Royal Palace of Capodimonte stand out. Created in 1738 by Charles of Bourbon when these lands were Spanish, it houses part of the Farnese collection inherited from his mother, with masterpieces by Titian, Botticelli, Raphael, Bruegel the Elder, Andrea del Sarto, Ribera, Goya, Vasari, and the extraordinary *Flagellation of Christ* by Caravaggio. The other part of the



Pompeii with Vesuvius backdrop



The remains of Pompeii



Mural in Herculaneum



Farnese collection, along with Roman and Greek sculptures, is housed in the spectacular National Archaeological Museum, one of the most important in the world due to the quality and quantity of its exhibits. It was also established by the Bourbons, and within it, you can admire mosaics, frescoes, and statues from the nearby cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii – small marvels that survived the destructive

force of Vesuvius.

To mingle with the locals outside the small trattorias and osterias (nothing like restaurants, as they are called in Italy), where you can enjoy a Pizza Margherita, created in honour of Queen Margherita of Savoy, or Spaghetti alla Puttanesca (which, as the name suggests, were quickly prepared in brothels between clients), and if you're lucky, drink the rare Lacryma Christi,

which uses a variety of grapes found only on the slopes of Vesuvius. Head to the massive Piazza del Plebiscito, where you'll find the Royal Palace and the Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III, or stroll along Spaccanapoli, in the heart of the historic centre, which divides Naples into two parts and is a UNESCO World Heritage site, home to some of the best monuments and churches in the city. ›

A BREAK IN THE VOLUPTUOUS CAPRI

Before venturing into the sulphurous clouds of the volcanoes and the effects they caused, it's worth escaping the chaos of Naples for a brief moment of relaxation on the voluptuous island of Capri, less than an hour by boat from Naples. Capri is perfect to explore on foot, wandering among the ruins of villas once owned by Roman emperors and ancient residences of all those who fell in love with the island between the 19th and 20th centuries. Its rugged geology offers countless viewpoints over the sea below, where it dances among caves like the incredible Blue Grotto, and the grand Faraglioni rising from the water. There's so much to see and enjoy in Capri, but few take the time to head up to Anacapri, the highest part of the island, to see why this place captivated Roman emperors, magnates, and many writers and poets. One of the most famous was Swedish doctor and writer Axel Munthe, who built Villa San Michele (the story of its creation is his main literary work), where he kept statues and relics from Roman times that Munthe found while excavating archaeological sites, not always legally. In addition to his extraordinary collection, he also created a beautiful garden with many of the more than 850 plant species found on the island.

DISCOVERING HISTORY AMONG RUINS

The route of the volcanoes must naturally start with Vesuvius, famous for the destruction it caused in 79 AD, and still considered one of the most dangerous in the world as it remains active, with nearly forty



eruptions under its belt, the most recent only 80 years ago, destroying much of the town of San Sebastiano. While the exact date of the eruption is uncertain (24th August – or 24th October, according to most experts), it is thought to have coincided, by chance, with the Vulcanalia, the festival of the Roman God of fire, who must have been angered, as the eruption column, according to experts, reached over 32,000 metres in height and the ash cloud reached a temperature of 850 °C. This ash preserved Pompeii for 1,600 years, covering it with six metres, until, during works to excavate an underground tunnel, some Pompeian frescoes with sexual content were discovered, but due to the medieval rejection of such depictions, they were buried once again. Pompeii was rediscovered in 1748 during the reign of King Charles VII of Naples, more famously known as Charles III of Spain, when excavations were started by the Spanish engineer Roque Joaquín de Alcubierre, born in Zaragoza.

The remains that have been uncovered in Pompeii, and to a lesser extent in Herculaneum, which suffered less, allow us to see what daily life was like in a provincial town of the Roman Empire. In other cities, as they evolved, buildings were constructed over them, but Pompeii remains unchanged. Thus, historians and tourists (entry is limited to 20,000 per day) can admire its numerous frescoes, including some erotic ones found in the brothel, though the best ones are in the Naples Archaeological Museum. In Pompeii and Herculaneum, one can better understand Roman life from two thousand years ago than at the Forum or the Colosseum in Rome. Pompeii has been a source of inspiration for many writers who, like other illustrious travellers, made the 'Grand Tour' in the 19th century, expressing their fascination in works by Goethe, Dickens, Stendhal, Galdós, and Blasco Ibáñez. ›



Intricate mosaic floors



Cathedral of St. Andrew, Amalfi

View from Anacapri



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COAST OF EUROPE

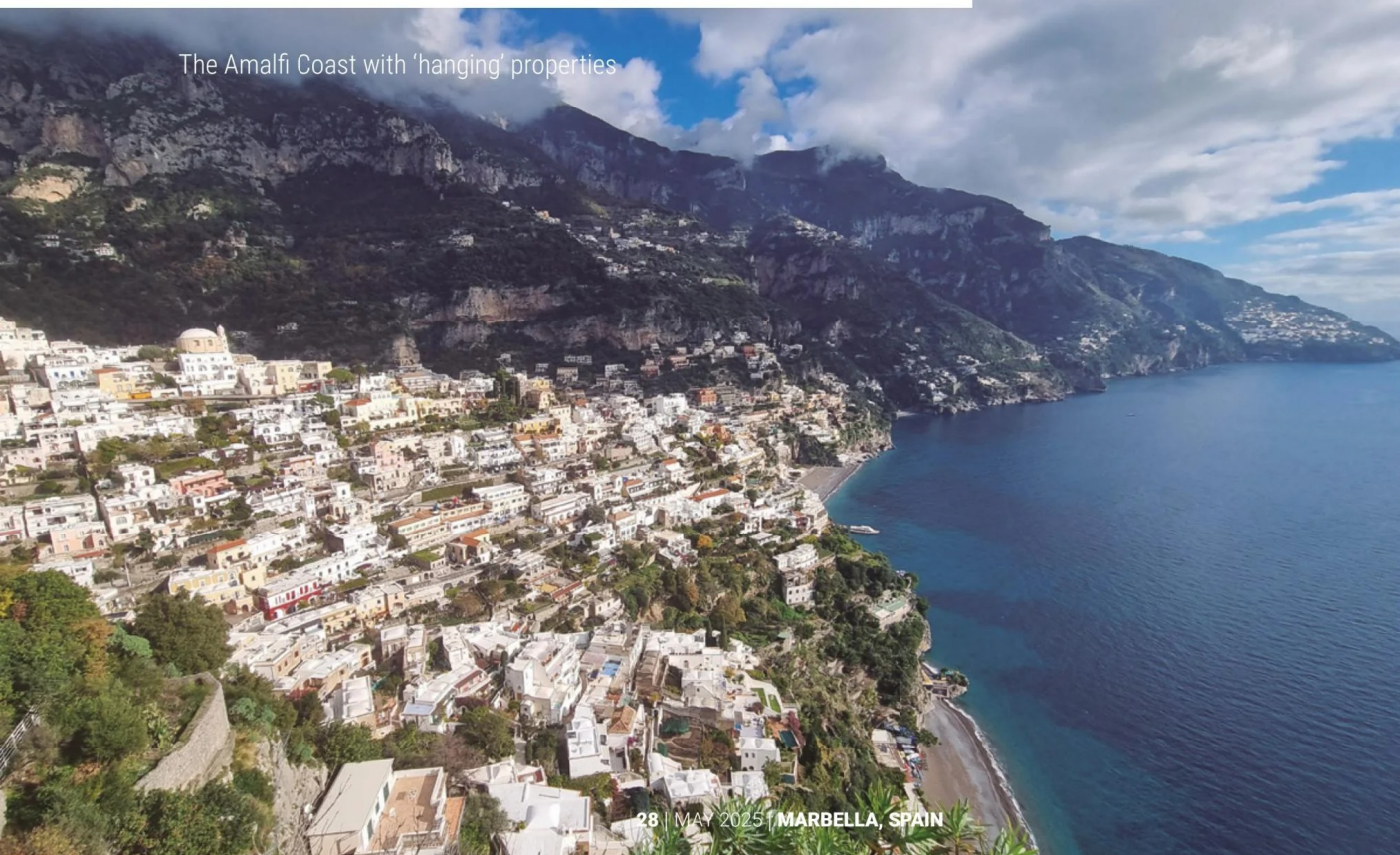
Talking about the Amalfi Coast means exhausting all the good adjectives. In 1878, the Italian Renato Fucini wrote that “for the Amalfians, the Day of Judgement would be just like any other, as they lived in paradise.” The purple of the bougainvilleas and the green and yellow of the lemon trees seem to seek a colour contrast with the deep blue of the Tyrrhenian Sea, and the land that hosts them appears to want to penetrate those waters,

like a balcony over the sea, embracing coastal villages and majestic villas. UNESCO declared the Amalfi Coast a World Heritage site in 1997 “for its beauty, natural biodiversity, and the architectural and artistic works that unfold there.” It is not easy to take in all of this at first sight, as the winding road that traces the entire length of the Amalfi Coast, aptly named Nastro Azzuro (Blue Ribbon), and which locals call the Sentiero degli Dei (Path of the Gods), barely offers open viewpoints for spectacular views. >



Ravello

The Amalfi Coast with 'hanging' properties



A New Gem in Sierra Blanca



 PLOT: 2633M²  BUILT: 1320M²  TERRACES: 435M²  BEDROOMS: 7  BATHROOMS: 8

The splendid and unique Villa Albinoni is situated in the heart of the most prestigious community of Marbella called Sierra Blanca. Placed on a large plot and facing south with gorgeous sea views, this contemporary villa is distributed across four levels. A majestic entrance welcomes you to the double-height hall continuing towards a bright living room with a fireplace, an open plan lounge- kitchen and dining area, terraces, a cosy garden and an infinity pool. On the same floor, this villa offers one guest room and an office. On the upper level, you will find the master bedroom with stunning panoramic sea views, a large space with a walk-in closet and an en-suite bathroom. There are two other bedrooms with sea views and both with en-suite bathrooms. On the rooftop terrace, you can find a chill-and-dine area, an outdoor kitchen and a jacuzzi where all can enjoy the 360° panoramic views. The lower level includes a wine cellar, an entertainment and cinema room, an indoor heated stream pool, spa area, the gym, guest room, a service area and a garage for 4 cars. A dream house for those looking for the epitome of luxury that Marbella has to offer.

PRICE: 11.880.000€

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The few that exist are always filled with cars and early-rising tourists.

You must take it easy and, in addition to admiring the panoramas from the steep cliffs above the water, and seeing its tiny bays and terraces planted with vines, olives, and citrus trees, you need to stroll through the narrow and steep streets of each village and sit down to enjoy the views at some small terrace while sipping a cappuccino, a beer, or, most fittingly, a limoncello.

We love Salerno, the largest town on the coast, located just 30 km from the ruins of Pompeii, a former retreat for intellectuals and artists, with its delightful seafront, the medieval Arechi Castle, whose main merit lies in the views it offers of the city and its bay, and a green park with attractive natural paths, immersed in Mediterranean vegetation. In the historic centre, many medieval buildings share space with shops, trattorias, and truly Italian cafés, though crowded with tourists. This is a good place to hire one of the boats that set off to various Amalfi Coast spots or that allow you to admire the privileged coast from the sea.



Amalfi Coast



A colourful eruption of Etna



The Blue Grotto at Capri



The crater of Etna

A HAVEN FOR ARTISTS

But to escape the crowds, it's best to head to the charming fishing village of Cetara, whose name in Latin comes from *almadraba*. This is the ideal place to taste the tuna caught along this coast, prepared in various dishes, accompanied by *colatura di alici*, a traditional anchovy sauce with ancient origins. In contrast is nearby Ravello, perched atop cliffs, facing the sea and surrounded by sumptuous mansions and magnificent gardens with viewpoints. Composer Richard Wagner was one of its most devoted visitors, and

it is said that he set his opera *Parsifal* here. Every summer, a classical music festival is held, partly dedicated to the German composer. Tenor Enrico Caruso was also a frequent visitor, and one of the best hotels here bears his name. He wasn't the only one to fall in love with Ravello. Writers and artists like Virginia Woolf, Paul Valéry, Graham Greene, Joan Miró, André Gide, Tennessee Williams, Rafael Alberti, and Gore Vidal also spent time here.

Naturally, Amalfi deserves a stop on the way, not only because it lends its

name to the entire coast, but also for its historical importance. Although today it has only 4,000 inhabitants and several thousand visitors at any time of year, in the 9th century it was one of the four independent republics of Italy, alongside Pisa, Genoa, and Venice, with 70,000 inhabitants. Just a step from the sea lies the artistic Piazza del Duomo, from which a grand staircase ascends to the polychrome facade of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, with its golden portico, the Cloister of Paradise, and a bell tower dating back to 1200. ›

As in all the cities and villages of the Amalfi Coast, the essential thing is to stroll through its narrow streets that almost touch each other, enjoy the bustle of the terraces, succumb to the temptation of its ice cream shops with a thousand flavours, visit the limoncello stores (which now also make versions with mandarin, orange, peach, grapefruit... and even chocolate) offering all the flavours of southern Italy, and bask in a sun that seems to fall from an immensely blue sky. And for a break, choose one of the many trattorias on Via Lorenzo and discover the town's signature dishes: scialatielli (a type of pasta similar to spaghetti but

wider and shorter) with seafood or tagliolini al limone amalfitano.

THE POWER OF STROMBOLI

But this route is about volcanoes, though the Amalfi Coast certainly deserves a brief detour. It is located between the three most important and active volcanoes in Europe: Vesuvius to the north, Etna in the south, in Sicily, and almost directly opposite, Stromboli, perhaps the most beautiful to behold, located in the heart of the Aeolian Islands, which witnessed Homer's *Odyssey* and is also a UNESCO World Heritage site, where Greek mythology placed the residence of the god

of winds, Aeolus (hence the name of the archipelago), and the forge of Vulcan. Its sight is overwhelming in the middle of the sea, especially at sunset or at night when its summit – or rather, its three summits – glow with red lava, and almost like clockwork, every 20 minutes, it erupts, sending lava down the Sciara del Fuoco to the sea. Perhaps that's why it is known as the lighthouse of the Tyrrhenian Sea. It's a unique spectacle from a boat on the water.

Though there are sometimes intense eruptions (the last alert was in July 2024), generally, its flames only produce ash that covers the tables of the terraces while the few tourists



Stromboli and its plug, which was thrown into the sea



Herculaneum, a well preserved ancient settlement at the foot of Vesuvius

Herculaneum, a well preserved ancient settlement at the foot of Vesuvius

who come nearby continue drinking. Very close by is a small island, Strombolicchio, which an ancient legend claims is the plug of Stromboli thrown into the sea, while geologists consider it part of the chimney of a volcano, shattered by the battering of the waves and wind. It is a vertical outcrop capped with a small white lighthouse, now without a keeper, accessible by climbing 200 steps. Jules Verne was inspired by it for his immortal work *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, in which the protagonists are ejected with their raft from the earth's core, emerging through the opening of Stromboli after the adventure that began in Iceland.

ETNA: A SEPARATE... AND FINAL CHAPTER

No volcano route would be complete without Etna, even if it requires crossing the Strait of Messina to reach Sicily. Amid a great variety of geological and landscape features, from volcanic desert zones to dense, green forests, stands the majestic Etna, or Muncibbeddu in Sicilian.

Strombolicchio

A symbol of Sicily to the world, it is the largest active volcano in Europe, and one of the highest, with its summit over 3,400m, and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2013. ›

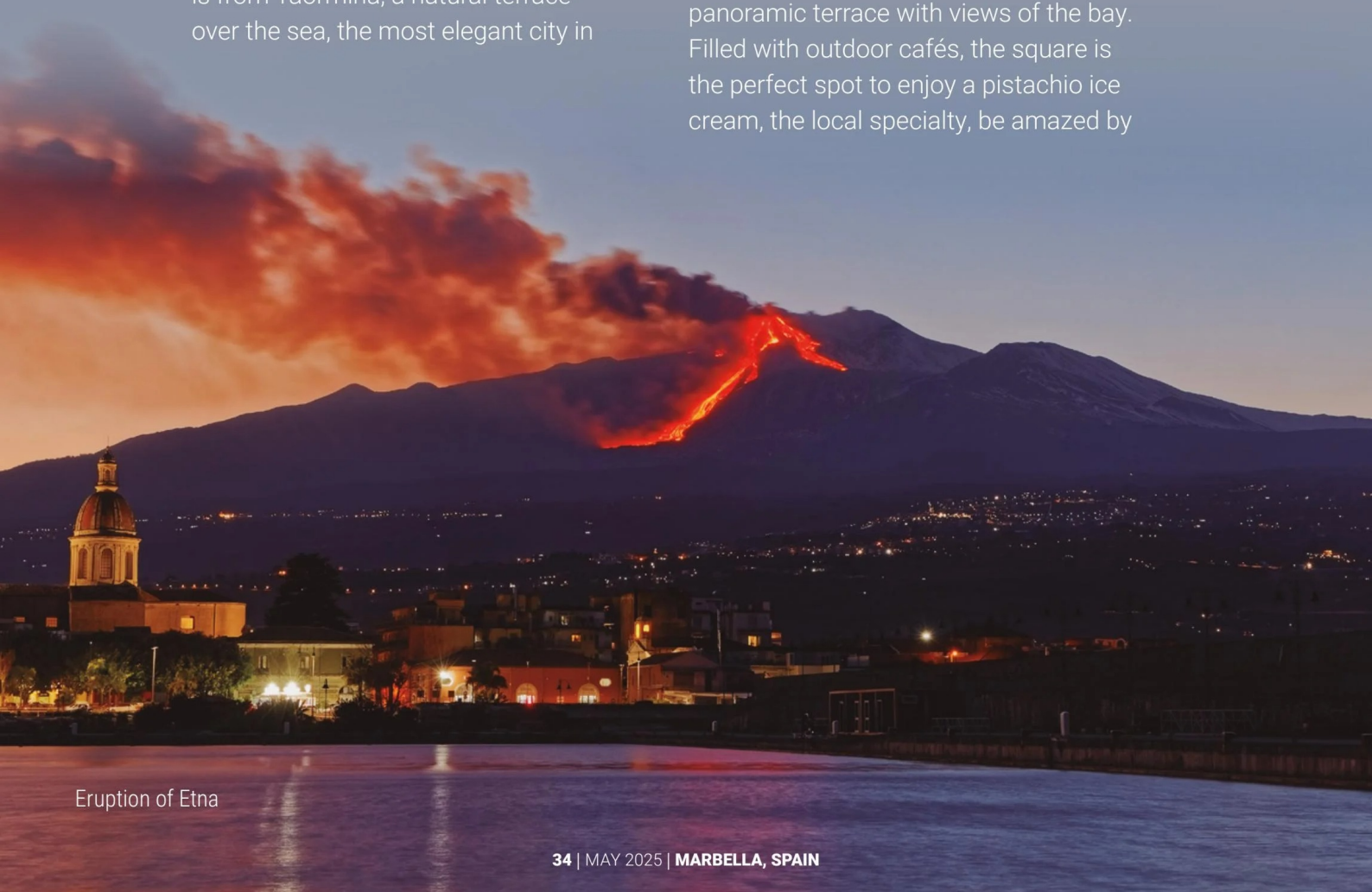


The landscape surrounding it is a marvel: from the coastal strip with views of the Ionian Sea to the countryside with citrus orchards and vineyards, passing through dense chestnut and oak forests to the barren nature near the summit. Its ashes, craters, caves, lava flows, and the depression of the Valle del Bove make it a privileged destination, an important cultural landscape, and a strategic research centre with a long history of influence in volcanology, geology, and other Earth sciences. The Etna Nature Reserve and the volcano can be explored along numerous natural trails, perfect for enjoying an unforgettable panorama.

A very special view of the volcano is from Taormina, a natural terrace over the sea, the most elegant city in

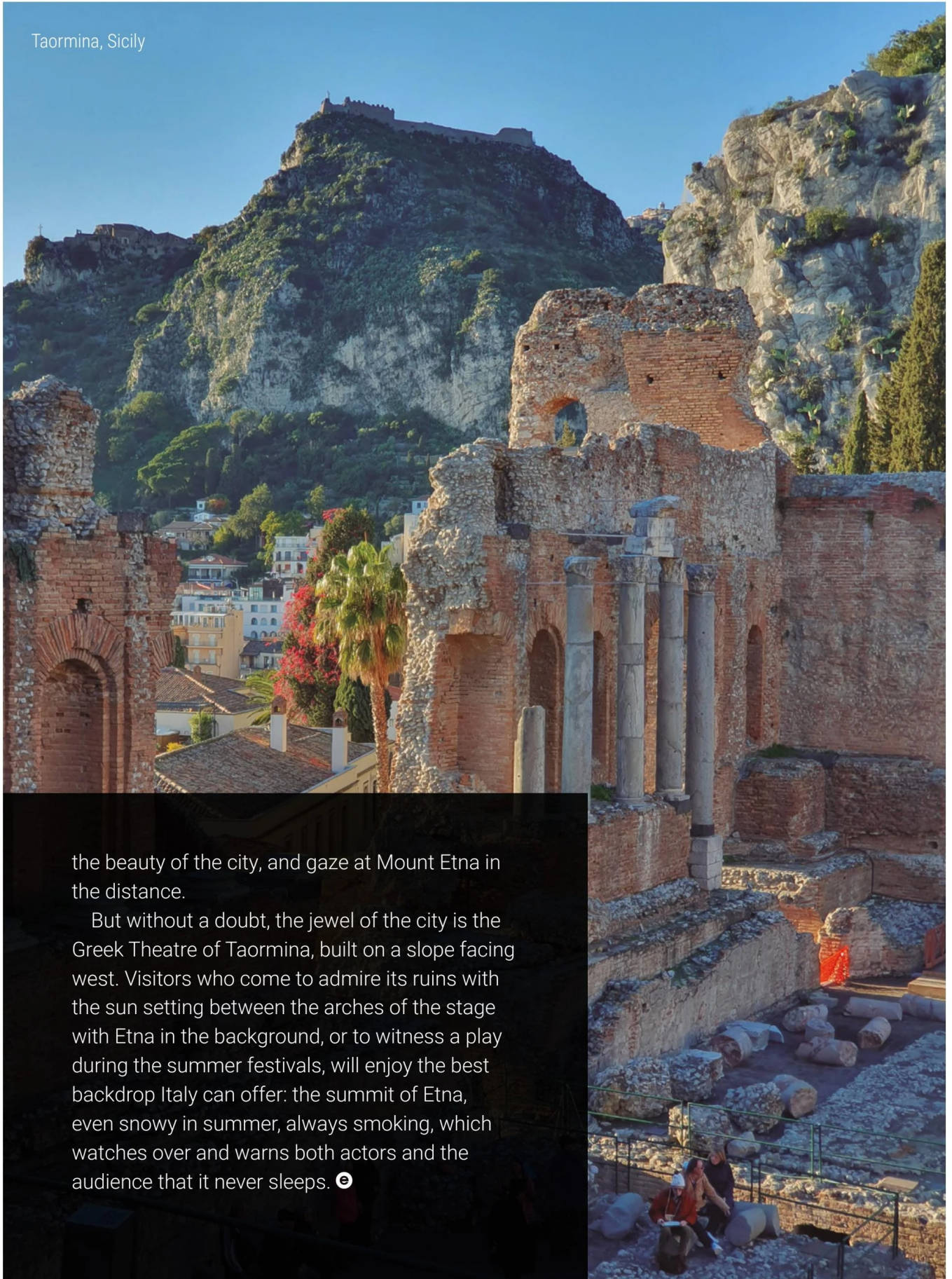


Sicily and the pearl of the Ionian Sea. Isola Bella is the symbol of Taormina, a picturesque and evocative islet, a nature and archaeological reserve, where a villa stands surrounded by tiny coves bathed by the ebb and flow of the waves, competing with Piazza IX Aprile, a panoramic terrace with views of the bay. Filled with outdoor cafés, the square is the perfect spot to enjoy a pistachio ice cream, the local specialty, be amazed by



Eruption of Etna

Taormina, Sicily



the beauty of the city, and gaze at Mount Etna in the distance.

But without a doubt, the jewel of the city is the Greek Theatre of Taormina, built on a slope facing west. Visitors who come to admire its ruins with the sun setting between the arches of the stage with Etna in the background, or to witness a play during the summer festivals, will enjoy the best backdrop Italy can offer: the summit of Etna, even snowy in summer, always smoking, which watches over and warns both actors and the audience that it never sleeps. 

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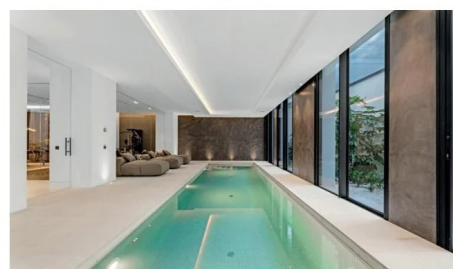
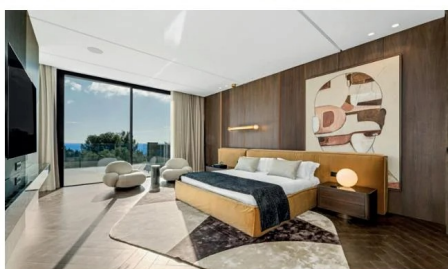
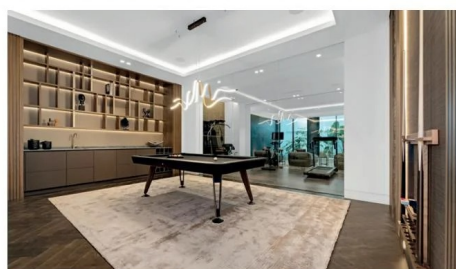
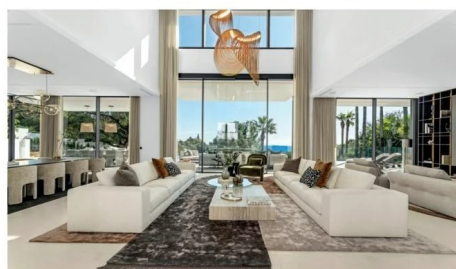
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FAIRMONT

LA HACIENDA COSTA DEL SOL HOTEL OPENS IN CÁDIZ

Cádiz is one of Andalucía's best-loved provinces, known for postcard-perfect beaches like La Caleta Beach, historic town squares, and a bustling market offering fresh seafood and local cuisine alongside historic Roman ruins. It is also home to a new hotel, the five-star, Grand luxury Fairmont La Hacienda Costa del Sol, located between Sotogrande and La Alcaidesa, which offers endless views of the Mediterranean and the richness of Andalusian culture. Within this oasis, exquisite culinary offerings, restorative wellness experiences, meaningful cultural immersions, and lively gatherings are all deeply connected to the region's rich heritage.

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **FAIRMONT LA HACIENDA COSTA DEL SOL**





THE ROOMS

The rooms are spacious and have terraces from which guests can enjoy panoramic views of the glistening sea. There are 150 guest rooms, ranging from 50.2 to 100m². Their interiors radiate brightness and openness, with sunlight casting a golden glow over light wood, organic textures, and warm cream tones. Carefully selected pieces by Spanish designers bring a touch of local sophistication and creativity.

Guests can enjoy breathtaking scenery from their plush king-sized bed, well-appointed work desk, or spacious terrace. In the bathroom, an assortment of luxurious Le Labo amenities in Fairmont's signature Rose 31 scent capture the essence of luxury. When guests aren't exploring the area or relaxing at the resort, they can unwind with a soak in the bathtub, which is complemented by a separate bathroom area. ›





THE SUITES AND VILLAS

Those wishing to book a larger space can choose from an impressive 161 suites, ranging from 70m² to 730m², and 47 villas with up to six rooms, ranging from 600m² to over 1,200m² in size. The villas combine both the top and bottom floors of each unit, providing expansive living spaces and complete seclusion. Guests opting for a suite can choose between the lower floor, featuring a plunge pool and outdoor shower, or the upper level, which offers a spacious terrace perfect for relaxing and taking in the views.



THE GOLF EXPERIENCE

Fairmont La Hacienda Costa del Sol enjoys an exclusive partnership with two exceptional 18-hole golf courses just minutes from the hotel via a shuttle service: La Hacienda Links and La Hacienda Heathland. The golf courses feature a comprehensive golf academy with expert instructors offering classes for both beginners and seasoned players. ›



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RELAXING AT THE SPA

The hotel is home to a 1,800m² wellness centre, which harmonises with the elements and nature's rhythm, offering a unique experience as the only spa in the region with sea-view facilities. The centre offers a comprehensive range of wellness treatments and experiences, including six treatment rooms, two hammams, a sauna, a steam room, indoor and outdoor pools (hot and cold), a hydrotherapy hot water pool, a snow fountain, a yoga studio, a cardio lounge, and expert manicure and pedicure services.



WINING AND DINING

There are numerous culinary temptations to dazzle diners, including four signature restaurants. El Faro La Hacienda serves a taste of Spanish flavours; Dalmar delights with a modern Andalusian grill showcase by chef Benito Gómez; Umbra Restaurant features a splash of elegance and fresh coastal flavours, while the Beach Club offers seaside serenity and a sunset vibe. You can also enjoy coffee and apéritifs at the Vista Lounge & Terrace or quench your thirst at the Pool Bar Lounge.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

There are numerous, versatile

spaces catering to formal and informal gatherings, from grand weddings to intimate celebrations and professional conventions. With incredible views stretching over the sea to Gibraltar, the hotel's elegant Grand Ballroom is perfect for weddings, large-scale conferences, gala dinners, and corporate events. Equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology and flexible seating arrangements, it can accommodate up to 500 guests. The Villas, meanwhile, are perfect for hosting smaller-scale events, such as birthdays, engagement parties, intimate weddings, and exclusive cocktail receptions. They also serve as ideal venues

for product launches and brand photoshoots. Finally, the chic Beach Club provides a glamorous setting for exclusive events. When privatised, it transforms into a vibrant venue for festive seaside gatherings.

ABOUT FAIRMONT DESTINATIONS

The Fairmont group comprises over 90 properties, each of which is a unique landmark within its location. From Azerbaijan to Egypt, Ireland to the United States, its hotels offer stunning architecture, luxury amenities, and one-of-a-kind experiences.

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furniture

THE OUTDOOR FINESSE OF ROYAL BOTANIA

A lot is said about luxurious furniture and decoration, but in a climate such as ours, where a significant part of the year revolves around outdoor living, the décor of your garden and terrace areas is just as important. Moreover, so much more is demanded of it – beauty, style, comfort, functionality, durability and the need to be the inspiration for a lifestyle. Blending all of that together is an art.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY KEVIN HORN

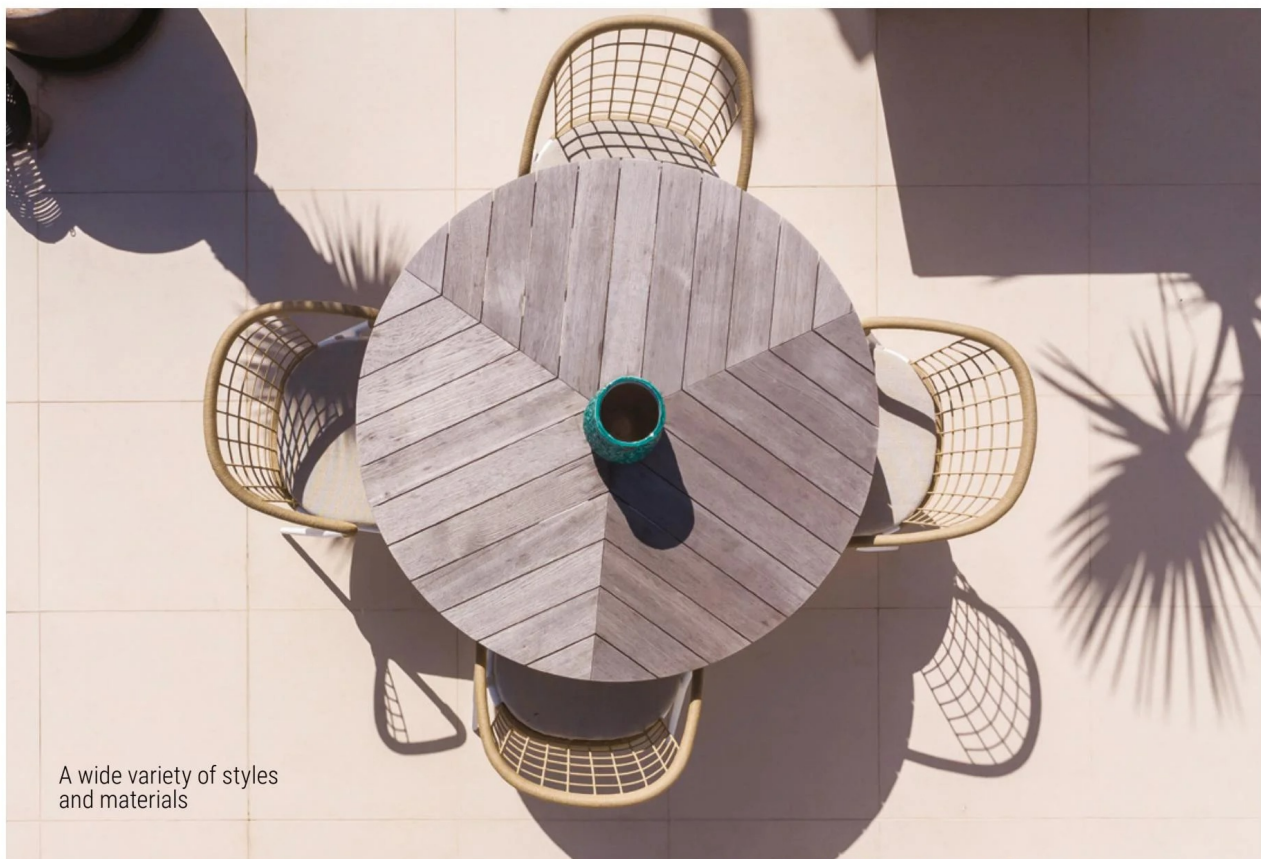


“Casa Bodhi is a place to come and relax, recharge and enjoy, complete with a gym and a spa, Wellness Bodhina. It is a peaceful retreat from which to set out and make the most of Marbella but also find privacy and tranquillity.”

Casa Bodhi is an oasis of luxury and tranquillity in the heart of Elviria, a nine-bedroom private hotel surrounded by the greenery of a lush garden. Inside, it is superbly stylish, the touch of a skilled designer clearly visible in the private suites, bathrooms, and tasteful lounge

and relaxing areas. This elegant retreat on the east side of Marbella is the creation of Annoeska Winkelaar, an interior designer from Holland who first moved to Marbella five years ago. “I split my time between Marbella and Belgium,” says the design-focused entrepreneur who began her career in office furniture. ›





A wide variety of styles and materials

"Who knew that I would be running a boutique in Marbella," laughs Annoeska, who has applied her styling skills to create a superbly inviting environment for her guests. "Casa Bodhi is a place to come and relax, recharge and enjoy, complete with a gym and a spa, Wellness Bodhina. It is a peaceful retreat from which to set out and make the most of Marbella but also find privacy and tranquillity." The gardens, pool and terraces form part of this, and they have received the same level of care and attention as the interior spaces. "I love outdoor decoration as much as working on interiors, and in a setting such as Marbella it's just as important." ›



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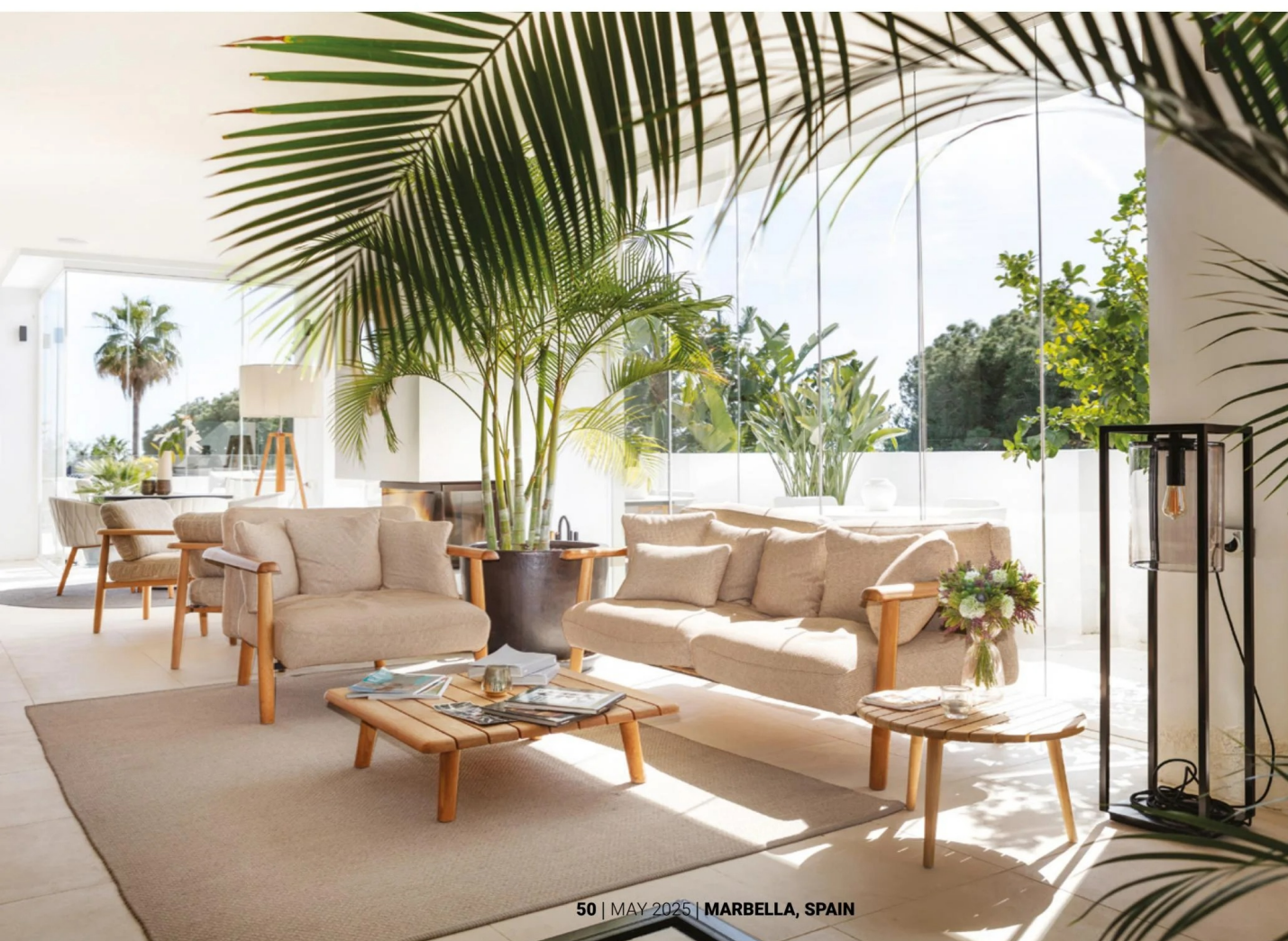
ROYAL BOTANIA AT CASA BODHI

But there is something else about Casa Bodhi, a concept that is rather unique. "Ours is a special hotel where luxury hospitality and high-end design come together," says Annoeska. "In addition to offering an exclusive stay, our guests can enjoy a living showroom, as Casa Bodhi's exterior spaces are

a gallery of what can be created with Royal Botania outdoor furniture." The company founded some 30 years ago has become known as the Rolls-Royce of garden furniture, and it is perfect for the climate and lifestyle of southern Spain. "It's a dynamic concept, which ensures that Casa Bodhi is constantly evolving, especially

in its garden, poolside, terrace, and patio décor."

Guests inspired by this experience can also order pieces or entire outdoor styling for themselves, including a range of planters, parasols, and exterior lighting designed and made by the brand's own specialist craftsmen. The result is an exclusive garden design



The light and elegant feel of Casa Bodhi



The spectacular terrace is a showroom for outdoor furniture by Royal Botania

collection that blends sumptuous style with the kind of durability needed to withstand the elements. "If you think of it, making garden decoration that stays beautiful is quite a challenge, but Royal Botania do it with such flair that I fell in love with the brand years ago and have used it in many of my interior design projects." As the exclusive representative of the brand in Spain, Annoeska has made Marbella its centre of operations.

"Our local climate and way of life cry out for a level of outdoor furnishing that matches what you can achieve indoors, and this brand delivers it, as we showcase in revolving collections at Casa Bodhi. I feel that the boutique villa

provides the ideal living showroom that not only displays the products but also makes it possible to use and interact with them." This applies not only to guests but also to the architects and interior designers that Annoeska works closely

with. "They include the likes of Blackshaw, iDDomus and Lijumi, who visit the latest collections and bring their clients with them, sometimes staying for a cup of coffee or a light meal, and this adds to the 'living showroom' concept that we've created." >





CREATING AN EXPERIENCE

At a time when elegance was largely confined to interior spaces, founder Kris van Puyvelde started transforming outdoor areas into luxury, refined extensions of the home. He called his new brand Royal Botania, but the vision extended beyond quality and style to also include a natural focus from the outset, as shown in a preference for organic materials such as wood, fabrics, and ceramics. The designs have evolved with the times, but Royal Botania's furniture pieces provide a sensory experience

that aims to be in harmony with the natural setting they find themselves in, and the brand also works hard to optimise sustainability.

The company participates in a reforestation project in Thailand, where Royal Botania itself has been responsible for the planting of over 250,000 teak trees. "The commitment to sustainable development is as strong as the brand's dedication to quality, which shows in the choice of materials, the designs, and of course the standards, processes of production, and quality control. ›





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Royal Botania applies a very high degree of skilled craftsmanship in combination with the kind of modern technology that ensures the durability and sustained stylishness of the pieces in highly varied weather conditions,” says Annoeska, “and this makes it a pleasure to work with for interior designers.”

“Above all, it’s about producing a setting, an ambience. We believe that the right design and ambience are critical in setting the scene for special experiences. Through our partnership with Royal Botania, we provide guests with luxury,



comfort, and serenity while also showcasing what can be accomplished with outdoor decoration these days.”

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The stylish modern villa of Horizon 1 in Monte Mayor

THE HORIZON COLLECTION

VILLAS DESIGNED AROUND BUYERS

Having many years of experience in real estate gives you a clear insight into what buyers want. Sean Woolley of property agents Cloud Nine Spain, renowned Belgian architect Gie Wollaert, and off-site construction specialists Arkitech have put this know-how together to create a unique collaboration that designs properties to the known requirements of buyers – and all within a much shorter build time. The result is Horizon 1, the first project of The Horizon Collection.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **THE HORIZON COLLECTION**

“I’ve been searching for properties to match clients’ specifications for 24 years,” says Sean Woolley, founder of Marbella real estate agency Cloud Nine Spain. “Over that time, you develop a real sense not only of what buyers want, but also how tastes, preferences, and requirements change over time. In principle, they are a reflection of changes in lifestyle and expectations, and the more you understand this the more you realise that

– like fashion or car design – what is available is not always entirely in tune with what consumers would ideally like. I have been faced time and again with buyers who, in spite of a good budget, struggled to find exactly what they wanted. So, we started thinking that it was about time to create homes that more closely match demand.”

A collaboration was born with kindred spirits, bringing Sean Woolley, Belgian architect Gie Wollaert, and innovative off-site construction experts Arkitech

together in a joint project called The Horizon Collection. “With it, we address key points that make successful property searches difficult, and at times frustrating, for property buyers on this coast,” says Sean. “The first is to offer the best possible combination of quality, amenities, and price.”

A LUXURY VILLA READY IN 10-12 MONTHS

One of the key USPs of Horizon 1 is the fact that it does offer a lot, and it manages to do this thanks to ›

Horizon 1, the first of the Horizon Collection





an inspired architectural design that uses space very effectively and reduces construction costs. “We use an off-site construction system that is considerably quicker – meaning that a villa can be ready in nine months, instead of two years. This reduces costs, avoids the huge build delays caused by a shortage of qualified workers, and is also a far more environmentally friendly way of producing homes, as everything is prepared under controlled conditions and you don’t have a horribly messy and polluting site to deal with – meaning no cranes,

lorries, and noise that usually comes with it,” says Sean. “I’ve always been fascinated by architecture and especially homes built on hillside plots. Too often, architects and builders take the lazy option resulting in the sloping plots of land, which are often the most dramatic, being left by the wayside. However, these plots can often offer decent value for money and if the width of the plot allows it, we can create something that is truly spectacular.”

The key is the width, which makes it possible to design and build a linear home, with broad panoramic windows

that take in the views. “The interior layout is also designed in such a way that so-called ‘dead spaces’ like corridors and large hallways are largely eliminated, and a distribution created where rooms flow seamlessly into one another while still maintaining intimacy and the identity of each area.” Architect Gie Wollaert has made the most of the sloping topography to create villas that appear to be ‘floating’ in mid-air, with spacious living areas on the ground floor and four bedrooms on the lower level, which communicates directly with the surrounding natural environment. ›

The HORIZON Collection

What's on Your Horizon?

Image for information purposes only



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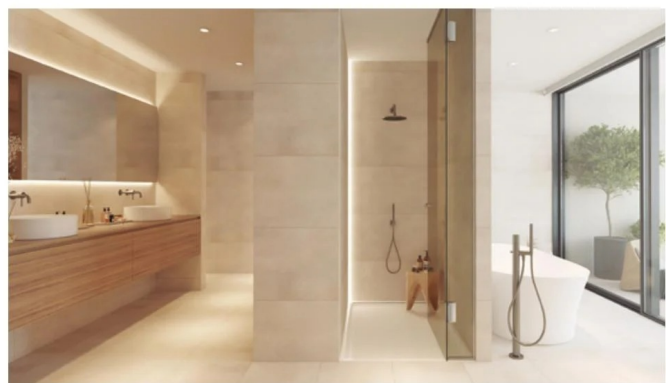

ARKITECH



Open plan living surrounded by nature and views

A FLEXIBLE CONCEPT

"We've thought about it and using years of feedback from clients we've designed homes that offer a great deal of flexibility, enabling you to create working and/or relaxing spaces, areas for fitness, home entertainment, and more. We also offer a high degree of personalisation, so that we can create a beautifully crafted home that reflects our buyers' individual tastes and preferences, as well as the practical functionalities to suit their lifestyle." Easy maintenance and low upkeep costs are part of this formula, which also sees a choice for energy and resource-efficiency, with landscaping that is suited to the local climate and conditions.



One of the key features of Horizon 1 is the double infinity pool deck and outdoor living area with stunning views that forms the focal point for most buyers. "The villas are built within 10-12 months using modern time-saving methods that offer higher specifications for insulation, energy usage, and overall construction quality, and they are finished to a very high level. Buyers can also upgrade, however, for instance adding an outdoor kitchen or gymnasium, ensuring that these beautifully crafted homes are completed to buyers' exact requirements but without the hassle and stress of a self-build project. >



Configure your preferred private spaces



VILLA COMFORT AND PENTHOUSE CONVENIENCE

The design and build format provide the properties of The Horizon Collection with the comfort and space of a villa combined with the easy maintenance and lock-up convenience of a luxury penthouse apartment. The setting, another crucial element in finding the right home, is Monte Mayor, the luxurious country club in the hills near Los Flamingos. "We're within the municipality of Benahavís, which means we benefit from its excellent urban planning and also technical infrastructure, but above all Monte Mayor stands out for its space, its spectacular nature and commanding views. You're in a select country club with gated entrance and a charming little social hub complete with restaurant, grocery store, and a small collection of offices, even an art gallery, and though you're just ten minutes from the coastal road and within easy reach of Benahavís, Estepona, and Marbella, this is a very lively and sociable community in one of the most up-and-coming residential areas of the Costa del Sol."

The first part of The Horizon Collection is taking shape within this green villa suburb with its awe-inspiring sea and mountain views. "Standing here and taking in those vistas, it didn't take long for the project to name itself," says Sean, "and they have also provided much of the inspiration for a villa project that is just that little bit different



from the rest. Why? Because we've literally designed these homes around the needs and wants of our buyers, which makes it like having the freedom of building your own home without any of the hassles – and I think the result is refreshing and just what the coast has been asking for."

Horizon 1 is currently available at a price of €2.695.000.

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3 GOOD REASONS WHY EVERYONE NEEDS A HOBBY

Hidden within this article are three great reasons why everyone
– regardless of age, gender, and socio-economic background
– can benefit from partaking in hobbies. Discover them all and
find a hobby that ignites your passion!

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**





Travel is universally hailed as a mind-opening hobby

A recent study shows that 90 per cent of people have a hobby, and if you're one of them, know that you're doing great things for your health and well-being! That's the first and arguably most important benefit of participating in activities you love. One study involving over 93,000 people from three continents found that having a hobby is linked to fewer depressive symptoms and higher levels of health, happiness, and life satisfaction. The researchers noted that hobbies such as arts and crafts, gardening, games, volunteering, and participating in clubs

offer creativity, sensory engagement, self-expression, relaxation, and cognitive stimulation, which boost mental health and well-being. In this study, all participants were 65 years or older, and over 60 per cent of them had longstanding physical or mental health conditions. However, in 2020, the Young People's Mental Health report showed that young people who engaged in hobbies reaped the same rewards. Some 73 per cent of youths and young adults said that in tough times such as the pandemic, hobbies were the most significant aid to their mental health, followed by friends, social media, and self-care.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HOBBIES

What exactly is it about hobbies that makes them so beneficial and enjoyable? Much of their appeal, say psychologists, is due to their capacity to help us express who we are (or who we want to be). Whether you are an extrovert who loves team sports or an introvert who enjoys delving into research, there are many hobbies that you are likely to enjoy. Psychologist Dr. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi coined the term 'flow' to explain why hobbies are so engaging. He explains, "The best moments in our lives are not the passive, receptive, relaxing times... >



The best moments usually occur when a person's body or mind is stretched to its limits voluntarily to accomplish something difficult and worthwhile." When you are in a state of flow, you are absorbed in the moment, and time seems to vanish. You lose self-consciousness and focus on the present, whether you are learning a new piece on the piano, assembling a LEGO set, or immersing yourself in

painting.

Few other moments allow humans to enter this rare, highly focused mental state where action merges with awareness. In a world where multitasking, Internet surfing, and smartphone pings never cease, having a treasured moment of absolute focus is nothing less than a gift. Flow can be defined as 'effortless effort'. It is paradoxical because although we work hard at

something, when we are in the flow, it doesn't feel like work. Have you ever heard of athletes talking about being 'in the Zone', musicians losing themselves in their instruments, or writers skipping meals as they get lost in the fictional worlds they've created? You don't have to be Mozart or Dickens to enjoy this fantastic feeling; all you need to do is find a hobby you love. ›

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WHAT ARE THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR HOBBIES?

If you're considering taking up a hobby and don't know where to start, perhaps you will find inspiration in some of the world's best-loved hobbies. Your tastes will undoubtedly differ depending on your age, what part of the world you are from, and your life experiences, but according to the World Economic Forum, Statista, and other research groups, some of

the most popular hobbies include:

- » Sports and Other Outdoor Activities
- » Cooking
- » Travelling
- » Gardening
- » The Internet and Social Media
- » Reading
- » Music (both listening to music and playing it)
- » Video Gaming





Arts and crafts
can be an excellent
additional or main
source of income

MAKING A LIVING DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

A poll by FE News revealed that around half of all people with hobbies would love to pursue them as full-time jobs. It makes sense at a time when the global gig economy now accounts for up to 12 per cent of the labour market (as reported by the Pew Research Centre). Statistics show that some 70 per cent of contractors say they are working freelance as a matter of choice, monetising hobbies such as arts and crafts, calligraphy, web development, and photography.

If you'd love to earn extra money via your hobby, you may find inspiration from a few real-life stories. Take Sharon Stone, who shone on the screen for over three decades in thrillers like *Basic Instinct* and *Total Recall*.

Now in her 60s, she has embarked on a career as a painter. "I didn't have any real intentions, except just following my passion," she told CBS. "Everybody told me to stay in my lane, and my lanes started to just get so narrow. I don't think I'm just an actress, or a writer, or a painter. I think I'm just an artist."

Of course, Mark Zuckerberg started Facebook as a hobby while he was a student at Harvard. Then there is Michael J. Kittredge, who began making candles out of crayons at the age of 16 because he couldn't afford to buy his mother a Christmas present. A neighbour was taken by the beauty of the candle and convinced him to sell it to her. And that was the birth of Yankee Candles, a company that earned him a net worth of \$2 billion by the time he

passed away in 2019.

Or what about Alicia Shaffer, a mother-of-three who turned her hobby of crafting bohemian accessories into a multi-million dollar business called Three Birds Nest? Shaffer was inspired by her uncle and mother, who helped her understand the value of creating leather items and other crafts. She wrote in *Medium*, "I spent many hours with my mum at craft fairs, and it just became a way of life. If you needed money, you used what you had to create something and sell it. I started my first company when I was in high school and have always been innovative that way." Therein lies the second reason why hobbies can benefit you: they can be an incredible way to supplement your income or even become your primary source of earnings. >

THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE HOBBIES

Not everyone pursues hobbies to improve their financial situation; pastimes can be expensive, which is perfectly good if you have the means to support them. Some of the world's most expensive hobbies include:

» **Yachting:** Do you have between €200.000 and €50 million to burn? If so, why not purchase your very own yacht? Annual maintenance costs can reach up to around €2.6 million a year, so ensure you have enough time for sailing and partying with friends and loved ones on deck!

» **Art Collection:** Anyone with a few euros to spare can start an art collection. Walton Goggins of *White Lotus* fame notes that even when starting out as an actor, he collected works from numerous artists. Today, he enjoys displaying his impressive

collection in his stunningly designed home. Art can be expensive, with some pieces costing tens or even hundreds of millions of euros, with additional costs involved in the storage, preservation, and sometimes, restoration of works. »



Sailing is a well-loved hobby among high-end hobbyists

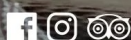




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» **Car Collection:** Vintage and luxury cars are popular among enthusiasts, with rare models often selling for millions. Feast your eyes on the private collections of Cristiano Ronaldo, Floyd Mayweather, or Rory McIlroy. Ronaldo's collection is valued at over €19.8 million and includes a Bugatti Centodieci, Bugatti Chiron, Ferrari Purosangue, and multiple McLaren, Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, and Lamborghinis. His Bugatti Centodieci is one of only 10 in the world, valued

at between €8–€9.9 million.

» **Space Tourism:** Suborbital flights, like those offered by Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic, can range from €220.000 to €395.000 per seat. Orbital flights, such as trips to the International Space Station (ISS), can cost €48.2 million or more per person.

» **Polo:** There's a good reason why polo is known as the 'sport of kings'. It requires a significant investment in horses, equipment, training, and travel, costing hundreds

of thousands of euros annually.

» **Scuba Diving:** You definitely don't need to be wealthy to enjoy scuba diving. However, if you wish to travel to unique diving spots around the world, ranging from Australia to the Galápagos Islands, you may spend up to €10.000 or more per trip. However, any seasoned diver will tell you that the thrill of diving alongside turtles, mantas, and whale sharks is simply unparalleled. »

Scuba diving is considered a 'risky' hobby choice, but many wouldn't dream of a summer without it





Everest is always a goal for thrill seekers

RISKIEST HOBBIES TO PURSUE

Now that you know the most expensive hobbies in existence, you may be wondering what the riskiest ones are. According to Off Grid Web, the risk of fatality of these hobbies are as follows:

- » **Final ascent of Mt. Everest:** One death per 2,500 hours
- » **Formula 1 car racing:** One per 5,000 hours
- » **Climbing in the Tetons:** One per 8,000 hours
- » **Skydiving:** One per 18,000 hours
- » **Downhill mountain biking:** One per 25,000 hours
- » **Paragliding:** One per 35,000 hours
- » **Hang gliding:** One per 40,000

hours

- » **Flying sailplanes:** One per 50,000 hours
- » **Private flying (non-commercial, recreational pilots):** One per 64,000 hours
- » **Motorcycling:** One per 100,000 hours
- » **Scuba diving:** One per 120,000 hours

MOST RESTORATIVE HOBBIES

We started this article touting the benefits of hobbies, so let's get away from risk and back to a few benefits. The third and final reason hobbies are good for you is that they are immensely restorative! They fill you with energy and motivation while providing profound

stress-relieving benefits. If you love nature, know that you're on the right track. Just ten minutes in a green area significantly lowers your stress levels, but you can reap similar benefits from swimming in an open body of water or taking part in an outdoor yoga class. There are many indoor restorative hobbies, including gardening, sewing and knitting, reading, creating art, journaling, playing music, and completing puzzles or building models or Lego designs. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or young adult, don't wait to reap the benefits of hobbies. Grab someone you love and experience the inimitable state of 'flow' starting right now! 

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ALPINE

A110 R ULTIME

*The swan song to a dying breed, or the future of automotive superiority?
Alpine's latest creation promises thrills behind the wheel over clinical
straight-line speed, but it still punches well above its weight.*

WORDS **SAM HEXTER** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ALPINE**



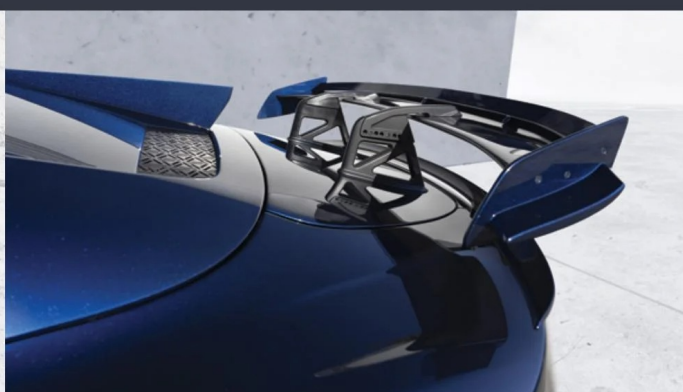


In a world where automotive headlines are dominated by monstrous horsepower figures and the growing omnipresence of EVs, the Alpine A110 R Ultimate arrives with something even rarer: soul. This is no brute-force hypercar, no sanitised electric space shuttle. It's a precision instrument, tuned to

the note of passion, nostalgia, and pure, unfiltered driving joy. And with just 110 examples built, it's more unicorn than car. The A110 R Ultimate isn't just the final form of Alpine's beloved A110 – it's the mic drop.

Let's start with the headline figures: 345 bhp (around 350 PS) and 420 Nm of shove. 0–100 km/h is met in just 3.8

seconds. But the numbers only tell part of the story. What makes the A110 R Ultimate special is how it delivers its power. It's not just fast – it's alive. The mid-mounted 1.8-litre turbocharged engine is mated to a snappy 7-speed dual-clutch transmission. The throttle response is immediate. This pocket rocket is a true dance partner. ›



Lightweight construction is key to the performance, poise, and playfulness of the Ultime. Thanks to a frankly obsessive use of carbon fibre (hood, roof, rear window, diffuser, even the wheels) and some epic aerodynamic cutaways, the car weighs just 1,082 kg. That's less than most modern hot hatches. And as we all know: less mass means more fun. The A110 R Ultime lives and breathes that philosophy.

At first glance, the stylish vehicle doesn't scream for attention but there are real racing-inspired cues that set it apart from your

typical A110. It's elegant, low-slung, and aerodynamic in the most purposeful way. Every vent, fin, and curve has a reason to be there. That massive rear wing? Functional. The rear diffuser? Not just for show. Combined, the new aero parts add 160 kg of downforce, helping stick the car to the tarmac in every turn. This is form following function but looking stunning while doing it.

There's a motorsport aggression baked into the Ultime's presence. It wears its carbon elements like armour, and those laser-cut details, like the subtle

but very cool number '110' on the rear quarter panels, remind you this is the end of an era. If a car could wear a tuxedo and racing overalls at the same time, this would be it.

Step inside the crafted cabin and you're greeted by two Sabelt carbon fibre racing seats with six-point harnesses. Clearly, this isn't your average plush cruiser. The interior is swathed in dark Alcantara with contrast stitching that feels more couture than cockpit. There's no infotainment overload, no glossy tablet screens to distract you – which, in my humble





opinion, have become the absolute death of good interiors in modern automobiles – leaving you with just the essentials. A nod to the purists.

Every inch feels deliberate and considered. The flat-bottom steering wheel, the toggle switches, the bare-bones practicality. It all says: you're here to drive. This isn't about luxury in the traditional sense; it's about the enrichment of the experience.

Want one? You might already be too late. With production limited to just 110 units worldwide, the A110 R Ultime is quietly slipping away into collectors' garages. The price? Starting at around €265.000 and reaching €330.000 for those craving even more exclusivity via the Atelier Alpine personalisation program. And considering the performance on offer and the chance to own something truly rare, that starts to sound like a bit of a bargain. It's the final page in Alpine's petrol-powered love letter, after all. ›

You could compare the Ultime to the Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS, with its flat-six scream and Germanic precision. Or the Lotus Emira, a similarly light-on-its-feet machine with British charm. Even the McLaren 570S makes for an interesting benchmark. But here's the truth: none of them feel quite like the Alpine. The A110 R Ultime doesn't try to beat them at their game – it changes the rules. It's not about brute force, but balance. Not about digital wizardry, but analogue joy.

It's the kind of car that makes you take the long way home. Every time.

The Alpine A110 R Ultime is not just the final chapter of the A110 story – it's the crescendo. A celebration of lightness, agility, and driving purity in an age of overcomplication. It's the kind of car that reminds us why we fell in love with driving in the first place.

If this is Alpine's last word before going electric, they've said it with a full heart and a deafening echo. **e**

» **POWER** 345 bhp and 420 Nm-torque

» **0-100KM/H** 3.8 seconds

» **TOP SPEED** 285 km/h

» **MARKET ALTERNATIVES**

Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS, Lotus Emira, McLaren 570S

» **PRICE** From €265.000 before local taxes



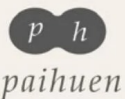
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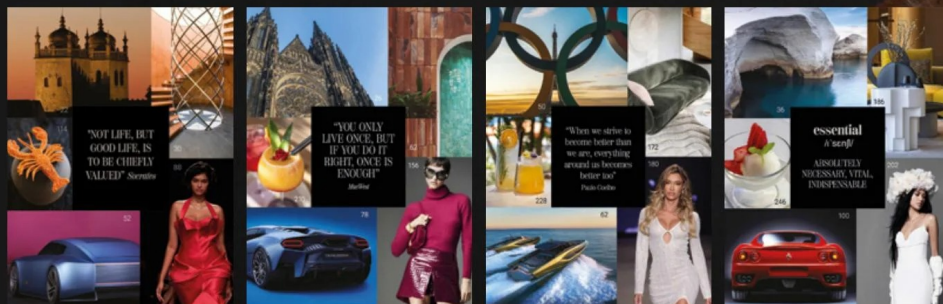
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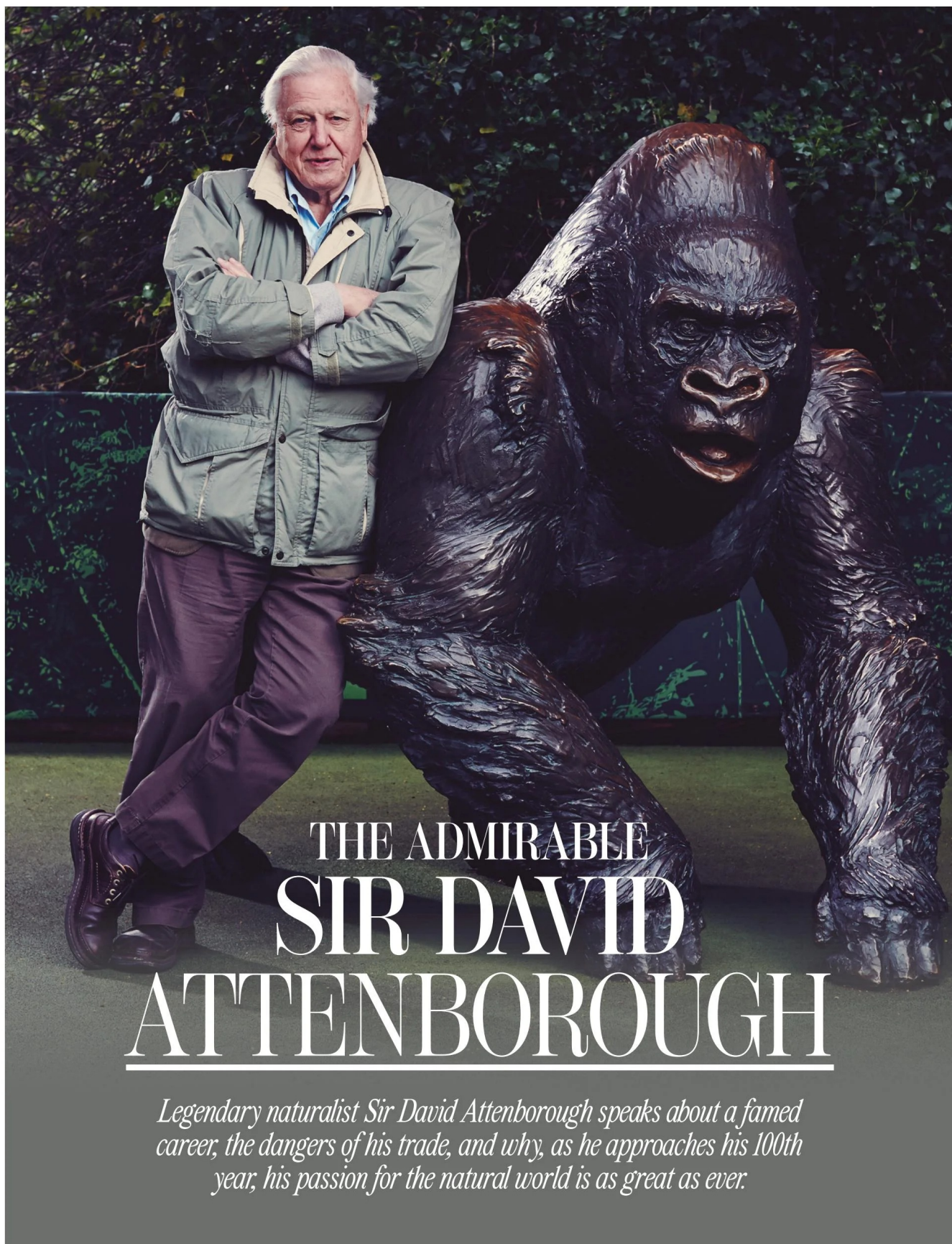
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During the past 25 years, **essential** magazine has emerged as the foremost lifestyle publication in Southern Spain, distinguished by its vibrant design and captivating editorial content. With a blend of relevant articles, dynamic features, and insightful social commentary, it stands as the ultimate insider's guide to life and style in Marbella and its surrounds. **essential** also stays attuned to global trends and is followed by a significant digital audience.





THE ADMIRABLE SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Legendary naturalist Sir David Attenborough speaks about a famed career, the dangers of his trade, and why, as he approaches his 100th year, his passion for the natural world is as great as ever.



WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALISE YOU HAD A PASSION FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE?

"I can't remember when I wasn't interested in the natural world! It seems to have always been with me.

I think it's one of those things children are involuntarily drawn towards – it's a fascination for animals and the things that live on our planet.

Every child I've ever met is captivated by the natural world. I took a five-year-old to a meadow in Oxfordshire and there was a slab of stone on the way which he lifted up and

said, 'Look Uncle David, a slug! What a treasure!' and he was right.

The greatest thing about nature is it's there for everyone to enjoy. I mean, there could hardly be a commoner creature – for anyone who has a garden – than a green fly, and yet the female green fly can produce young without a male and while she is producing that young, that baby within her already has a baby developing; so, you have three generations at the same time. This is why green flies can suddenly appear in your garden in tens of thousands."

ONE OF YOUR MOST ICONIC MOMENTS WAS WITH THE BABY GORILLAS IN RWANDA.

"Yes, everyone talks about that. I'm not allowed to forget it! They came to me; I didn't go to them. Of course, I came to them in the sense that I was in range, but the final approach was theirs and that made it special... aside from the interaction itself.

There is always that thing that we feel like we are going out searching for them, almost as the instigator. When the tables are turned though and an animal is curious in you, it's a wonderful thing." >



YOU HAVE BEEN DOING THIS AMAZING WORK FOR SEVEN DECADES. DO YOU LOOK BACK ON THOSE EARLY DAYS WITH FONDNESS?

"Oh of course, and I often have to pinch myself to see how much television has changed. When I started at the BBC back in 1952, I think there were seven in the department, and at least half of us didn't really have a clue what we were doing... and let me be clear, some of the early stuff we produced was dreadful. Honestly, it was!

I was controller of BBC2 and we were looking for all of the same middle-class stories that were heard on the radio or read in the

broadsheets. Television was targeted at a very highbrow audience, so it was all about home life and cooking, maybe politics or fictional stories. And a lot of it was very, very mundane. I'd hate to look back on that material now – I've left it off my CV!

Of course, when we began to investigate the natural world, I know some in the department thought we were mad; nobody had ever done that, and after all, where do you start with a project of that size? The truth is we edged our way into it and probably got lucky!"

IF YOU HADN'T HAVE ENDED UP ON TV, IS THERE

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD HAVE DONE?

"I started off thinking I was going to be a scientist, but didn't have the concentration or the patience I suppose. Then I thought I'd work in scientific publishing, and I did for a bit, and it was exceedingly boring.

I saw an advertisement for BBC radio but didn't even get an interview. And then about a fortnight afterwards someone wrote to me and said, 'We've got this new thing, couple of studios, it isn't very big, would you be interested?' So, I said, 'Yes please' and I've been there since." >



The next chapter of **Palo Alto** has begun: a limited collection of **design-led villas** is now under construction, set in the hills above Marbella—where privacy, nature, and architecture meet.

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Victoria Swarovski, entrepreneur and creative force, embodies the spirit of **Palo Alto**: elegance, vitality, and authenticity. As brand ambassador, she reflects the values of this unique community.

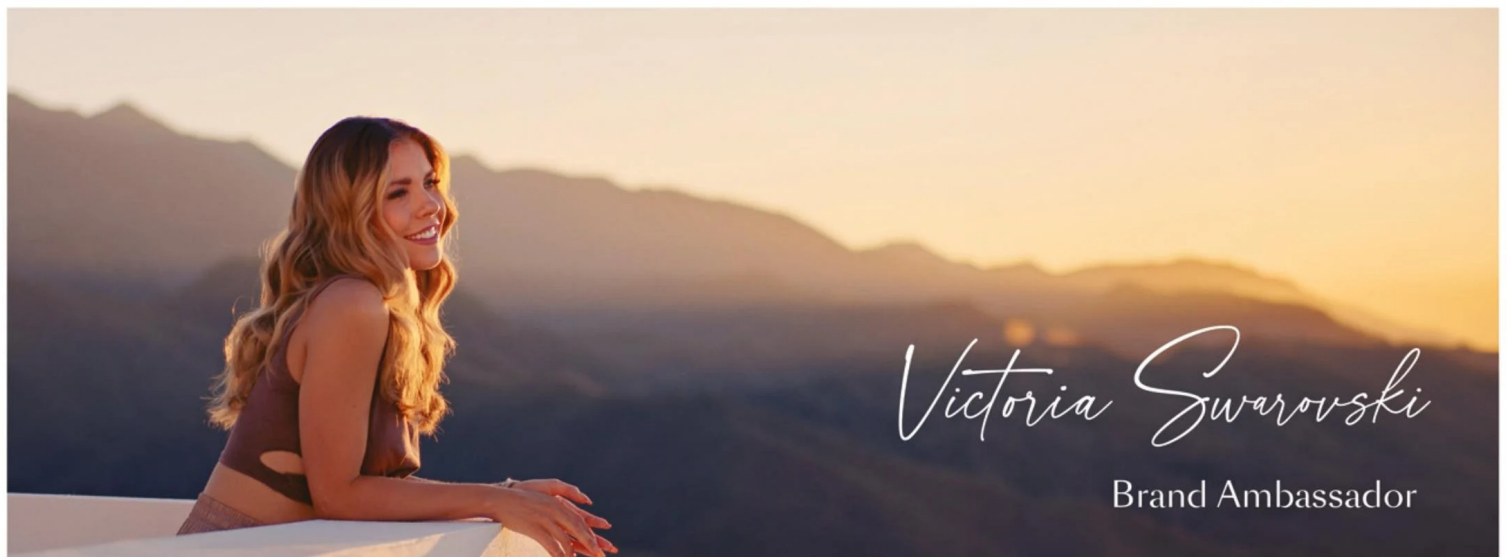
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HAVE YOU EVER FELT IN DANGER IN THE COURSE OF YOUR WORK?

"Very few animals attack you by design or their initiative unless you have done something silly. If you put yourself close to something you are asking for trouble, so be careful what you're doing.

If they feel threatened, yes, they may attack, but if that is the case they will nearly always go away. An animal knows there is no benefit in engaging in physical violence unless they intend on eating you!

And besides, if they are feeling vulnerable, most animals will give you plenty of notice. So, if an elephant comes charging out of the bush, trumpeting with its ears up, you know what it's doing – it's telling you to go away. And if you have any sense, you will!"





WHERE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE YOU'VE BEEN ON EARTH?

"Well firstly, let me state, I don't deliberately go to dangerous places! I think the most dangerous place I've been is in West Africa, in one of those countries where there is a lot of military unrest, and if you find somebody who doesn't speak your language, and doesn't like your face... well, he's got a loaded rifle. That's quite

dangerous. I've not been in danger from an elephant or a lion."

IT'S IRONIC YOU'VE BEEN IN MORE DANGER FROM HUMANS THAN ANIMALS...

"Yes, I think so. If you want to talk of big creatures who've caused the most death and destruction, you'd find it hard to find someone who's done more than the Homosapien."

WHAT HAS CHANGED MOST SINCE THIS

INCREDIBLE JOURNEY STARTED FOR YOU?

"Well, the most remarkable thing is that since I started making television programmes there are three times as many human beings on Earth – we've tripled in size. It isn't necessarily a disaster, but what we need to do is to recognise what the problem is, so that we can look after the people who are born onto this planet. ›



It's very difficult to try to change the social reality that we are all getting on with living, with bringing up families, and trying to enjoy every day as much as we can – after all, there is no harm in that. But the reality is that the planet is straining under the weight of what we expect it to do, and pretty soon we're all going to need to get around the table and work out a way of preserving it, because this cannot go on forever.

Population growth can devastate the natural world as

well as our own, and the end result is always the same – failure to survive.

I think we are gradually learning the lessons from what we see in animal environments, but we need to learn them quicker. And you know, every time there is an economic crisis we can't suddenly forget to look after our planet – that is generally what happens. We need to start thinking of it all as one big package."

ECOTOURISM IS A BIG THING THESE DAYS.

"It is, and that's a good thing; after all, an interest in the natural world is life enhancing but also very important... the point is the natural world is so inherently interesting that you only have to allow the people to see it and not get in the way of it for it to have an altruistic effect on people..."

As far as ecotourism is concerned, let's be clear, as a concept it has saved many more animals than it has threatened. It just needs to be done correctly."

**WE WILL DISCOVER ABOUT
THE NATURAL WORLD?**

"Oh, the natural world is infinite for me and for everyone else. No human being in half a dozen lifetimes could see all there is to see of the world, so there is always sometimes new. As for what it is, who knows, but our most unexplored regions are in the seas and oceans. We know relatively little about what's there in the deep."

**WHILE YOU'VE ADMITTED
YOU ARE WINDING DOWN
YOUR COMMITMENTS, IT'S
CLEAR YOU STILL HAVE NO
PLANS TO FULLY RETIRE,
WHICH IS A RELIEF TO
MANY. COULD ANYONE
EVER FILL YOUR SHOES?**

"A million people! It's not really a question of the people, it's whether the television editor and controller really want that kind of programme. There are a bunch of people who could do it; the only reason I'm doing is because back in the 1950s I was filming [Zoo Quest] and then naturalist Julian Huxley became ill and I filled in – because there was no-one else in 1954 who was particularly interested in animals at the time, and I was just told to do it.

I was on staff at the BBC and was told, 'you better come down from directing cameras and you better do it'. There wasn't any competition... If I started

now, there are a thousand people, must be, who can do the job as well as me.

I'm not complaining – I feel sorry for the people who want to do my job, that I'm still around, they're probably saying, 'Why doesn't he move over?!'" 





BILLY NASH'S

PASSPORT PROPERTIES

A leader in US real estate is visiting Marbella as part of a Europe-wide luxury realty production called Passport Properties that will be aired in the US and internationally.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN** & COURTESY OF **PASSPORT PROPERTIES**

Billy Nash is a highly successful realtor specialising in Florida's luxury real estate segment, a man with a background in finance who believes the property sector is not about selling but about personal relationships. "I didn't sell when I was in wealth management, and I don't sell now. I listen to what people want and then I find it for them, not unlike a matchmaker but with a higher success rate," laughs Billy. He says it in jest, but since having traded Wall Street for upmarket real estate, the New Jersey-born entrepreneur has fallen in love with all things property. "What could be nicer than viewing beautiful properties

in wonderful locations and meeting the interesting people you match them with?"

There isn't much Billy Nash doesn't know about real estate, and thanks to a background at the deep end of finance for 22 years where he advised clients on their finances, fiscal affairs, and investments, one important asset class was always high-end properties. "Having worked many years in wealth management, I know where HNW and UHNW buyers come from and understand their risk tolerance," says Billy, whose business forms part of the prestigious Keyes Company brand, a third generation brokerage founded in 1926 and today the largest privately-owned realty group in Florida, affiliated with Forbes

Global Properties. "We provide a very well-rounded service, which is particularly important within the higher segment of the market. You might say we're a bit like the 'family office' of real estate."

THE 'ANTHONY BOURDAIN' OF REAL ESTATE

Billy and his production team are in Marbella filming an eight one-hour episode series on luxury real estate experiences called *Passport Properties*. He is no stranger to television productions, having previously hosted six episodes of an American TV series called *Selling Mega Mansions*, which focused on top-end homes and estates in South Florida and around the United States, >



which was watched by millions of viewers. "It was a success, and I think that the role of such programmes is to entertain and inform, which to me means that they should be interesting and rewarding to watch, but also offer a realistic insight into the real estate sector and the world of luxury properties. When I see some of the reality shows that are supposedly about top-end real estate, I have to say they look and feel more like glamourised scripted soap operas and have very little to do with the reality of the industry at all. In my opinion, *Passport Properties* will deliver a fresh new look at the global

real estate world, beyond the walls of the properties."

For this reason, Billy rejected an offer from a major network to produce the new show and decided to found his own production company, Nash Lux Productions. He has built a strong team around it, including Leland Sandberg as executive producer and Line Producer Sheila McCormick, who won an Emmy with *Deadliest Catch*. "I did this because I wanted to have the freedom to be independent and not get bogged down by the 'no' culture of the networks. For us in the real estate business, 'no' is a 'maybe' that we work hard to

convert into a 'yes!' Which is to say, you won't find a lot of people better at negotiating and finding solutions than a seasoned realtor. It's also very important not to lose creative control."

As a perfect illustration of this, he not so long ago went over to a \$9,000,000 waterfront villa to cut down a hedge when its height was proving to be an obstacle to the conclusion of the transaction. "I was representing both the buyer and seller, but the Homeowners' Association was blocking it because of the 'offending' height of the hedge. »



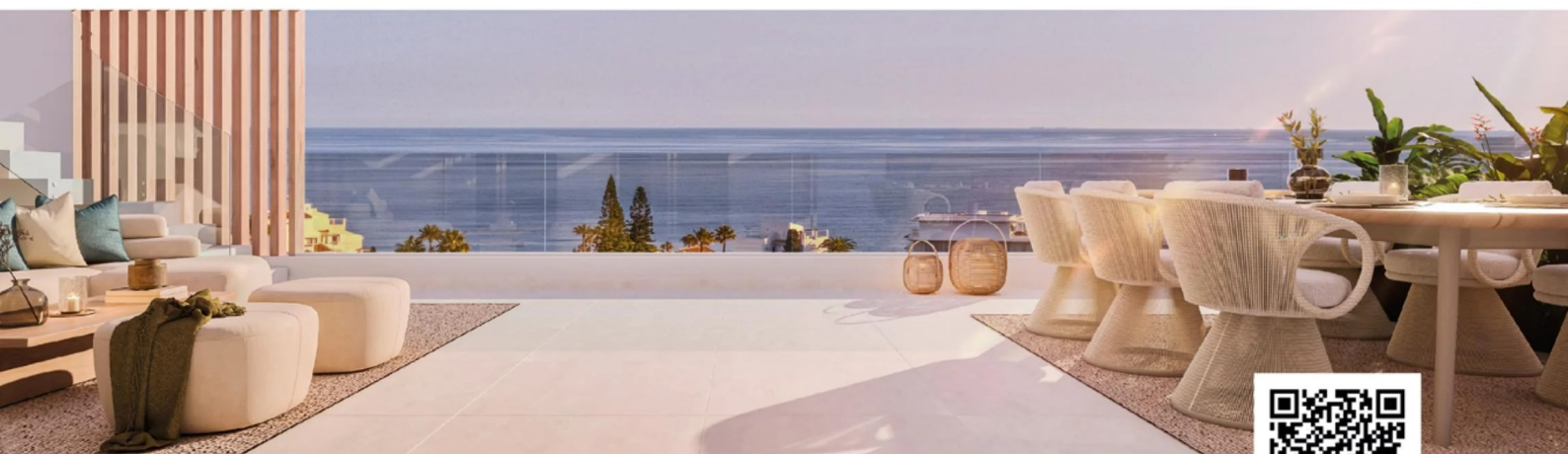
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I guess I could have sent someone to fix it, but I took the solution into my own hands, quite literally.” It’s this active, likeable, and sociable charm of Billy that resonates so well on-screen, and all the more since he packs the programmes so full of experiences.

“The show is indeed all about the senses, about experiences. We don’t just go around and rate luxury homes. We could be doing that all day long, there are so many out there. Instead, we highlight what is special

about a selected place in terms of its natural setting, its culture, cuisine and history, its people and yes, the outstanding properties as well. In this we offer a mix of modern and classical, international and local flavour, and try to show homes with a human story, talking to architects, interior stylists, craftsmen, local people, and also those who own or look after properties with a special historic background, such as the villa in Ronda that Ernest Hemingway wrote novels from.”

Having just kicked off the series production, filming an opening episode on the rich exotic flavour of Marrakesh, where the likes of Yves Saint Laurent was one of many foreign jet-set homeowners, Billy and the team will now be filming in Marbella, La Zagaleta, Ronda, Sotogrande, and also offshore, where he will be joining a local wine supplier who stores bottles under the perfect conditions of...the sea. “The world is full of flavour and magical experiences if you

care to scratch a little beneath the surface,” says Billy, “and this series introduces especially an American public to the delights of Europe.” After Spain the team moves to Lisbon, Cascais/Estoril, and Sintra in Portugal, then to Provence, England, Scotland, and Florence in Italy’s Tuscany region, where they recently filmed the £18,000,000 home of (Mona) Lisa Giacondo – yes, of the famous painting – before moving on to the south, where the team will be basking in the sunshine and enjoying Italian wine and food within the romantic environs of a Masseria, a classic country house between Bari and Lecce.

“Also on the list are Croatia, London, and Scotland, and next season we’re going to focus on Asia and Australia/New Zealand. They also have a rich cultural heritage and create some amazing modern homes. You see, there is more to a home than just what is on the surface,” says Billy, who loves the human story and cultural provenance of exceptional properties. “True luxury is not about ostentation, it is about quality and how you spend your precious time, so experiences are at the heart of it. For this reason, our sponsor RBN Rewards is a perfect match, as they refer best in class agents who help clients buy or sell properties, then at closing clients are rewarded

points to access high-end travel and experiences. This is the way the luxury real estate sector is going, towards quality in the form of personal service and consultancy that develops into longstanding relationships, the finest homes in the finest locations around the world, and the unforgettable moments and experiences that flow from this lifestyle. Our role is to open the door to it and share them with the world.”



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Get to know talented Brazilian artist and sculptor Marcos Marin. Understand the significance of AI concept The Singularity. Preview great new films and series coming in May and new book releases. Check out what's trending here in Spain and also further afield.

trends

« **BACK TO CONTENTS**

104 What's Cool

108 Brazilian Artist Marcos Marin

116 Hot New Films

120 Cool New Series

124 New Book Releases

128 The Singularity



what's cool?

WORDS BY IAIN BLACKWELL



LENNY KRAVITZ'S PARIS HOME

Architectural Digest, the authoritative publication on design, architecture, and lifestyle is showcasing Lenny Kravitz's Paris home with the singer featuring on the cover of its May edition and participating in the famous AD Open Door video series, where artists, celebrities, and interior design professionals present AD readers with a tour of their home.

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SIAH BY ISABEL SALGADO DE ANDREA

After decades of experience creating some of the most lauded white wines in the region, Isabel Salgado has given life to her most personal dream: to make a wine that reflects her roots, her passion, and the unique essence of Ribeiro. Produced from Treixadura, Godello, and Albariño grapes, SIAH exhibits aromas of ripe fruit accompanied by floral notes and spicy touches that come from its ageing in wood.

WWW.BODEGAS-SIAH.ES



THE ARZÁBAL BERNABÉU RESTAURANT

The Arzábal Bernabéu restaurant is magnificently located in Real Madrid's emblematic Santiago Bernabéu stadium. With an interior design signed by MIL STUDIOS, the architecture and interior styling have redefined the space into a sophisticated functional environment that complements the gastronomic space to the point of becoming a key element of it.

WWW.ARZABAL.COM / WWW.MILSTUDIOS.ES



NOBU CAIRO

Nobu, created by Nobu Matsuhisa who is well known for his unique take on traditional Japanese cuisine fused with Peruvian ingredients, is officially coming to Cairo. Beautifully designed by the iconic Rockwell Group, the 2,000m² restaurant will open in Autumn and an anticipated hotel will follow soon after, with a spa, gym, pool, and event spaces.

| WWW.NOBURESTAURANTS.COM

CALA BASSA BEACH CLUB IBIZA

With a culinary proposal of Mediterranean cuisine with classic Ibizan dishes standing out, the Chiringo restaurant at Cala Bassa Beach Club is the ideal venue to sate hunger pangs from morning to afternoon. Located on one of the Island's most beautiful beaches, select from enticing fish, seafood, and meat specialities in a welcoming atmosphere.

| WWW.CBBCGROUP.COM



FUNCHAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

From May 1 to 25, Funchal will be filled with fun with its Flower Festival, a unique event in which floral parades, allegorical dances, concerts, markets, and exhibitions celebrate the arrival of spring. This year, the festival expects to receive a greater number of Spanish visitors in line with tourist figures from recent years.

| WWW.VISITMADEIRA.COM



THE VP PLAZA ESPAÑA DESIGN 5*

In recognition of its iconic architecture, elegant rooms, and first-class gastronomic offering, the VP Plaza España Design 5* has obtained the prestigious Madrid Unique Destination seal, which promotes luxury tourism in the capital. It features the Ginkgo Restaurant & Sky Bar, the most exclusive gastronomic and event space in the city with a 360-degree panoramic terrace.

| WWW.PLAZAESPANA-HOTEL.COM

PERSIMMON'S – THE FLAVOUR OF GEORGIA IN MADRID

Located in the vibrant Las Salesas neighbourhood of Madrid, Persimmon's is a signature restaurant and cocktail bar that invites you on a sensory journey through the culture and gastronomy of Georgia. Its menu includes some of the country's most emblematic dishes while the cocktail offering revolves around Chacha, a traditional Georgian distillate similar to brandy.

WWW.PERSIMMONS.ES



MARCOS MARIN

WHEN ART SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



Born in Brazil, Marcos Marin has become international in reputation and in spirit, travelling the world to create unique works of art commissioned by some of the most high-profile people on the planet. This spring, the celebrated artist was introduced to Marbella by gallerist Ursula Salvador where his sculpture of Poseidon in Puerto Banús harmonises the ancient waters with a contemporary approach to art.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY KEVIN HORN

Marcos Marin with Ursula Salvador



It wasn't always obvious that Marcos Marin was going to be a painter and sculptor, much less an internationally renowned one, but what seemed highly probable was that he would pursue a career in the arts, following a family tradition in which his father was a film producer and his mother an opera singer. "My father was also an avid painter, so I grew up in a house that smelt of paint and was always full of artists of some type or another," says Marcos. These memories, such as the texture and smell of paint, and the soundtrack – usually live – of his youth, still resonate today. They formed the basis of a career that began as a piano virtuoso and culminated

in him becoming one of the leading figures of the Optical Art Movement.

"I was enrolled in a musical conservatory at the age of five and by my 15th birthday was performing my first solo piece. Music seemed destined to become my world, and I do continue to play, but later it was the visual arts that began to draw me not so much as a career, but as a calling." He travelled to France to study music in Angers, but it wasn't long before he moved to Paris, where he worked as an assistant to an engraver in Montmartre, a connection that led to a big breakthrough in his as yet nascent career as a painter. "I came into contact with Victor Vasarely, a famous artist and founder of the Op

Art genre whose work I adored and as a result of which I found my path towards optical art."

THE OPTICAL ART MOVEMENT

Marcos had already built quite a career for himself when he moved to Miami in 2000, having been selected by Pierre Cardin as his resident pianist and artist. In the USA, his work drew the attention of leading Op Art figures such as Jesús Rafael Soto and Carlos Cruz-Diez. These celebrated artists, both from Venezuela, welcomed the talented young painter into their midst, as a result of which Marcos became part of a select group at the vanguard of the Op Art Movement.>



"It meant that I gained significant status and commercial traction as an artist in my own right," says Marcos, "gaining private commissions from leading art collectors and having my artwork exhibited in galleries, and later also in museums."

After nine successful years in Miami that helped to launch him as a artist of international repute, he moved back to France, living and working at the Château de Lacoste, the erstwhile home of none other than the Marquis de Sade. "By now, I had also expanded my horizons into sculpture, something I picked up more or less coincidentally at the Arte Americas' fair in Miami, when they ran out of wall space to exhibit paintings and invited me to prepare a sculpted work for exhibition. It wasn't an artform I had particular

experience in, but I got to work and produced a four-metre high work entitled *Monalisa* that went on to win the competition." From that moment onwards, sculptures would feature very prominently in Marcos' body of work, leading to a further development of his career.

HIGH PROFILE CLIENTS

"Although I still work from the Château de Lacoste, I moved to Monaco in 2012, where I was commissioned by H.S.H. Prince Albert of Monaco to create a monument dedicated to Princess Grace of Monaco. It was later installed at the Jardin des Oliviers in Cap-Martin, and I continue to have a close relationship with the Prince, for instance producing the portraits awarded by him to the likes of Michael Douglas and Robert Redford as part of the Nymphet

lifetime award achievements." Marcos' ability to capture the essence and personalities of his subjects has led to commissions for many more portraits of famous people such as Maria Callas, Madonna, Frank Sinatra, Jean Cocteau, Alain Delon, Vladimir Putin, and also former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife, Carla Bruni.

"He asked me to paint portraits that were used as diplomatic gifts to leaders of other countries, and even now he always poses with international luminaries in front of the paintings I made of him and his wife." Marcos has also created many a work of art on behalf of public authorities, such as the statue of Charles Aznavour commissioned by the Mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, and inaugurated by Aznavour's son, Mischa." Other high-profile projects involved creating artwork to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Casino of Estoril in Portugal, as a result of which he met owner Stanley Ho, creator of the world's greatest gambling empire. "I produced quite a lot of work for him, and Mr. Ho opened doors for me in Asia that have resulted in public and private projects in places such as Macao, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Shanghai."

More recently, he was asked to produce *Poseidon*, a four-metre

tall sculpture that celebrates the ancient history of this western edge of the Mediterranean Sea, where it meets with the Atlantic Ocean at Gibraltar and Mount Hacho in Ceuta, known since antiquity as the 'Pillars of Hercules'. Poseidon complements statues of Hercules nearer the Straits, with the classic Greek God of the Seas representing the fact that for civilisations like those of the Greeks, Phoenicians, and Romans, this was the end of the known world. Marcos Marin has infused this ancient narrative with modern inspiration in

a captivating sculpture that was produced in Milan by a prominent steel industrialist, also a patron and collector of his artwork.

"I am so pleased to have been invited to Marbella by Ursula Salvador, my gallerist in Spain, and have received such a wonderful welcome. She made it all happen and believe it or not, it was my first time here. This beautiful place has made an impression on me, and it feels like it now forms part of the life journey that has led me via Brazil and France to Florida and Monaco. Marbella is now part of that journey."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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ARTMARCOSMARIN**



Marin's sculpture of Poseidon in Puerto Banús

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COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW MOVIES

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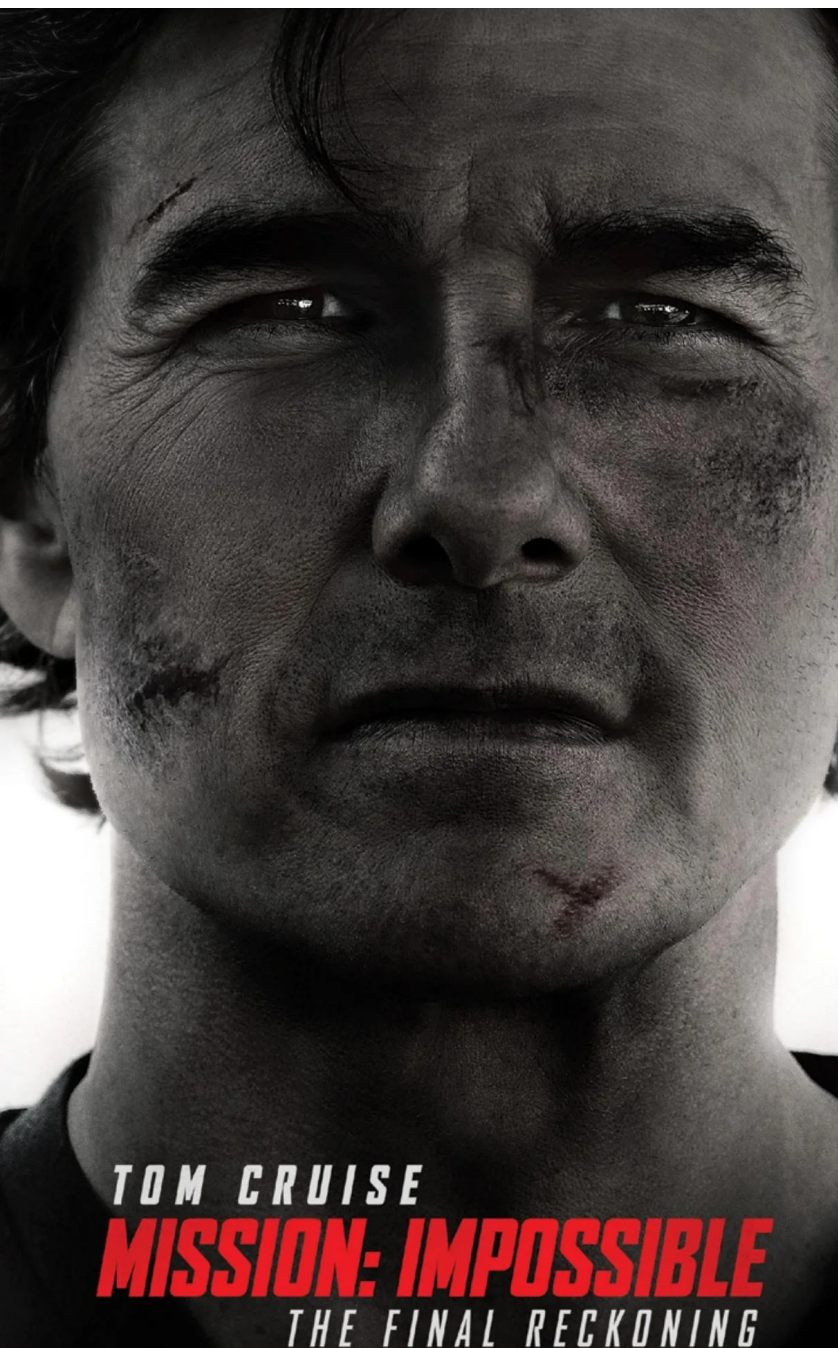
IN THE LOST LANDS

» Director: Paul W.S. Anderson (*Resident Evil*)

» Genre: Fantasy » Cast: Milla Jovovich, Dave Bautista, Arly Jover

Based on the short story of the same name by George R. R. Martin, the film stars Milla Jovovich and Dave Bautista as a sorceress and a hunter, respectively. The action begins when the powerful Queen Rhaenyra seeks the sorceress' help in obtaining the power of a shapeshifter, a werewolf, by the next full moon. Gray Alys is tasked with killing the beast and bringing its power to the Queen. Gray teams up with Boyce, the Queen's secret lover. They are pursued by The Enforcer and her acolytes, who serve The Patriarch – a corrupt leader who secretly plots to overthrow the Overlord and the Queen.





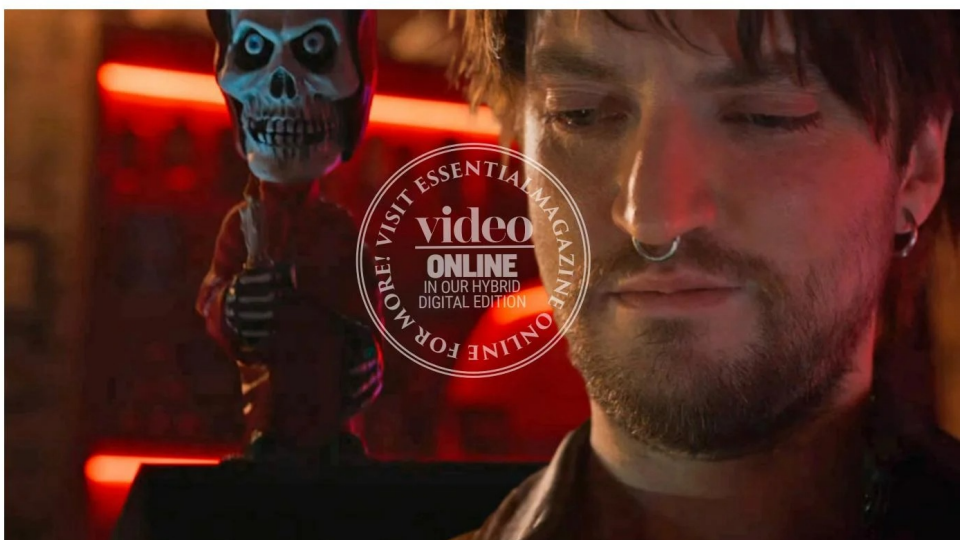
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – THE FINAL RECKONING

» **Director: Christopher McQuarrie**
(*Jack Reacher*) » **Genre: Action**

» **Cast: Tom Cruise, Vanessa Kirby,**
Tramell Tillman

'Our lives are the sum of our choices' is the motto of the eighth instalment in the *Mission: Impossible* franchise. Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) once again battles against a rogue AI known as the Entity and its human ally, Gabriel. The film follows Ethan as he attempts to secure the keys needed to destroy the Entity before a technological apocalypse occurs. The story embroils Hunt in high-stakes espionage and intense action sequences, set across multiple international locations.





KARATE KID: LEGENDS

» **Director:** Jonathan Entwistle (*Hello Tomorrow!*) » **Genre:** Action

» **Cast:** Jackie Chan, Ralph Macchio, Joshua Jackson, Ben Wang

After a family tragedy, kung fu prodigy Li Fong (Ben Wang) moves from Beijing to New York City with his mother. In the Big Apple, Li struggles to fit in and becomes a victim of bullying and unwanted attention from a local karate champion, Victor (Joshua Jackson). When a friend needs his help, Li decides to enter a karate competition but realises his kung fu skills aren't enough to guarantee victory. Guided by his mentor Mr. Han (Jackie Chan) and karate legend Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio), Li merges their unique fighting styles into a new form of martial arts. He is determined to prove his courage and honour the past in an epic showdown against the bully.



FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES

» **Directors:** Zach Lipovsky (*Ultra Violet & Black Scorpion*) and Adam B. Stein (*Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock*) » **Genre:** Supernatural

» **Cast:** Tony Todd, Brec Bassinger, Richard Harmon

A teenage girl has recurring nightmares about a tower collapsing in the 1960s. She discovers that these nightmares are a premonition she inherited from her grandmother. The grandmother predicted the collapse of the building, saving a lucky group of people from death. Decades later, the granddaughter starts having visions of her family members dying. She realises that there is a sequence to the deaths and that her family is Death's next set of victims. She becomes determined to uncover the truth behind her grandmother's actions so she can break the cycle.

LILO & STITCH

» **Director:** Dean Fleischer Camp (*Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*)

» **Genre:** Science Fiction Comedy

» **Cast:** Sydney Agudong, Maia Kealoha, Chris Sanders

Stitch is a blue, koala-like alien/genetic experiment known by the scientists who created him as Experiment 626. He is unruly, impulsive, and incredibly strong. Furry, 'ugly-cute', and hell-bent on destroying everything in his path, he is adopted by Lilo – an orphaned six-year-old girl from Hawaii who is into hula, surfing, and wildlife. Like Stitch, she is imaginative and rebellious and is considered a 'weirdie' by her peers. Lilo is being raised by her sister, 18-year-old Nani – a straight-A student who feels pressured to maintain her stellar grades, hold down a job, and stop Lilo from getting into trouble. 

COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW SERIES



POKER FACE

S2, MOVISTAR PLUS+ OR AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

» **Genre:** Crime

» **Creator:** Rian Johnson (*Knives Out*)

» **Cast:** Natasha Lyonne, Benjamin Bratt, Simon Helberg

Poker Face stars *Orange Is the New Black* actor Natasha Lyonne as Charlie Cale – a casino worker on the run from a casino boss following a suspicious death.

Thanks to her experience and talent, she has developed an almost uncanny ability to deduce whether people are lying or telling the truth. Along the way, she meets various characters and solves murder mysteries in a variety of settings. The series is a modern homage to the classic murder-mystery-of-the-week shows of the 1970s and 1980s.

SIRENS **SI, NETFLIX**

» **Genre: Comedy**

» **Creator: Molly Smith
Metzler (*Maid*)**

» **Cast: Julianne Moore,
Kevin Bacon, Meghann Fahy**

The series follows Devon, who becomes concerned about her sister Simone's relationship with their enigmatic boss, Michaela. Devon decides to intervene, unaware of the wrath she will face from Michaela, whose luxurious lifestyle has captivated Simone. The story unfolds over a dramatic weekend at the Kells' lavish beach estate. Series creator and executive producer Molly Smith Metzler has described the series as "operatic," adding, "It's a true dark story... and it's got a Greek mythology vibe."



MURDER BOT

SI, APPLE TV+

» Genre: Thriller/Comedy

» Creator: Chris and Paul Weitz (*Antz*)

» Cast: Alexander Skarsgård, Noma Dumezweni, David Dastmalchian

The series is based on Martha Wells' *The Murderbot Diaries*. It follows a self-hacking security construct named Murderbot, who is horrified by human emotions yet drawn to its vulnerable clients. Murderbot must hide its free will while completing dangerous assignments, all while trying to understand its place in the universe and consuming media – especially soap operas.





THE FOUR SEASONS

SI, NET FLIX

» **Genre: Comedy**

» **Creators: Tina Fey, Lang Fisher, Tracey Wigfield (30 Rock)**

» **Cast: Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Colman Domingo**

The series follows three long-time couples who have shared decades of friendship and weekend getaways. When one of the couples reveals they're breaking up, the tightly-knit group is thrown into emotional chaos. Things get even worse when the husband brings a much younger partner on one of their holidays. The series explores how this change affects their dynamics as they meet up during each of the year's four seasons.



DUSTER

SI, HBO MAX

» **Genre: Crime Thriller**

» **Creator: J.J. Abrams**

(Lost) and LaToya Morgan (Shameless)

» **Cast: Josh Holloway, Rachel Hilson, Sydney Elisabeth**

Set in 1972, the series follows Nina (Rachel Hilson), the first Black female FBI agent, as she teams up with a gutsy getaway driver, Jim (Josh Holloway), to take down a growing crime syndicate. The show combines high-octane action with deep character development and explores themes of loyalty and justice. Series creator J.J. Abrams says that every episode ends on a cliffhanger, similar in effect to the last page of a serialised comic book. 

READING

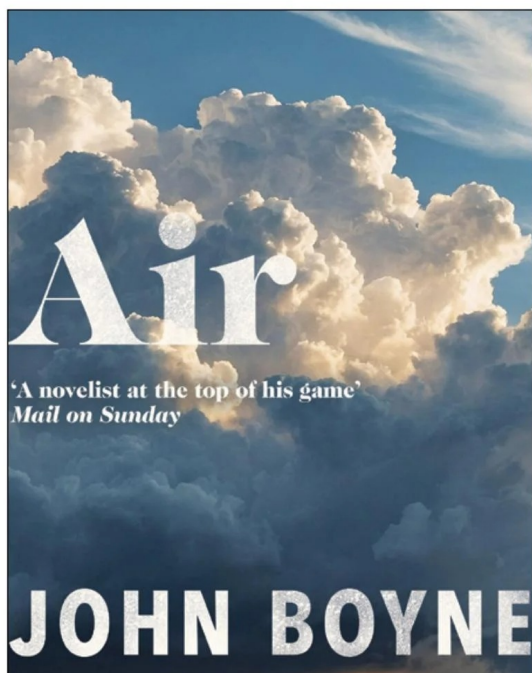
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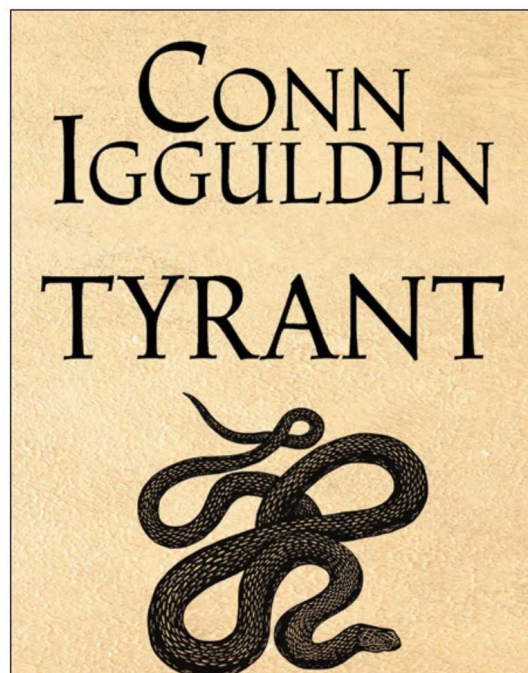
NEVER FLINCH BY STEPHEN KING

Stephen King returns with *Never Flinch*, a gripping new novel that intertwines two chilling storylines, one involving a calculated killer bent on revenge, the other a stalker targeting a feminist icon. When a letter threatens a string of murders as retribution, Detective Izzy Jaynes calls on the brilliant Holly Gibney to help track down a dangerous mind. Meanwhile, outspoken activist Kate McKay faces rising threats on her lecture tour, forcing Holly into the role of reluctant bodyguard. As the danger escalates on both fronts, the two threads twist toward a stunning collision. With unforgettable characters, shocking twists, and King's trademark storytelling magic, *Never Flinch* is a masterclass in suspense. Unsettling, immersive, and impossible to put down.



***AIR** BY JOHN BOYNE*

From bestselling author John Boyne comes a tender, emotionally resonant novel about a father and son confronting the weight of the past. As Aaron Umber boards a long-haul flight with his 15-year-old son, he carries with him more than just baggage, he's burdened by a troubled youth that still shapes his every move. Their destination: a woman unaware of their arrival, and a moment that could either bring healing or further heartache. Suspended between continents and choices, Aaron must face the fractures in his own identity and in his relationship with his son. With graceful prose and deep emotional insight, *Air* is a moving exploration of trauma, reconciliation, and the quiet, powerful steps we take toward forgiveness.



***TYRANT** BY CONN IGGULDEN*

From bestselling author Conn Iggulden comes the gripping second novel in his powerful new trilogy. *Tyrant* plunges readers into the heart of ancient Rome, where young Nero, now Emperor, is learning to navigate the deadly politics of power. As rivals circle and betrayals mount, Nero's mother Agrippina proves a formidable force, using marriage and manipulation to position her son for greatness at any cost. But in a city where ambition is a blade and loyalty is fleeting, no one is ever safe. Iggulden masterfully evokes the decadence, danger, and dark allure of imperial Rome in this taut, blood-soaked tale of power, legacy, and survival. Perfect for fans of historical fiction, *Tyrant* is a riveting look at one of history's most infamous rulers on the rise.

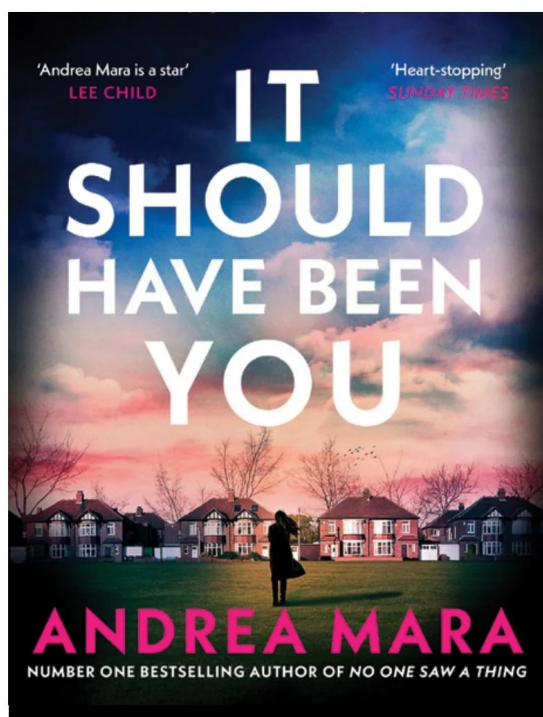
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU *BY FRANCESCA HORNAK*

In this witty and heartfelt novel, Francesca Hornak explores the complexities of friendship, ambition, and the masks we wear to keep it all together. Once inseparable at Oxford, Serge, Rosie, and Daniel reunite 15 years later at a glamorous wedding in Provence, no longer close, and no longer who they once were. Serge is a celebrated filmmaker with a crumbling life behind the scenes, Rosie hides heartbreak behind charm, and Daniel's success has brought him fame, and crippling anxiety. Over four Champagne-soaked days, long-buried tensions bubble to the surface, and carefully maintained façades begin to crack. *So Good to See You* is a sharply observed, emotionally layered story about who we become, what we hide, and the friendships we never quite let go.



IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU *BY ANDREA MARA*

A single message sets off a deadly chain of events in this addictive new thriller from *Sunday Times* bestseller Andrea Mara. One careless message. One massive mistake. When a woman accidentally sends a private, revealing rant about her neighbours to the entire local WhatsApp group, her quiet suburban life begins to unravel. As gossip spreads and tensions rise, she starts receiving anonymous death threats, and then someone is murdered. The twist? The victim lived at 26 Oakpark, just like her, but in another part of town. Is it a tragic coincidence, or a chilling case of mistaken identity? With mounting paranoia and danger closing in, she realises the real target might still be alive and running out of time. *It Should Have Been You* is an unputdownable tale of secrets, suspense, and deadly consequences. 



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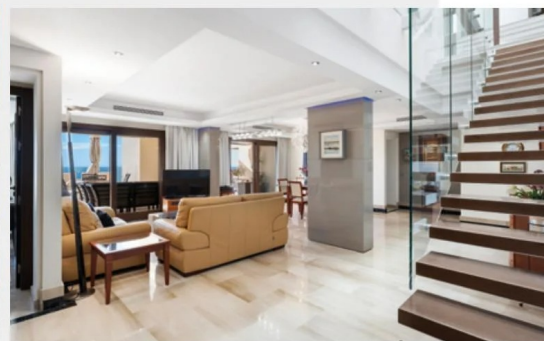
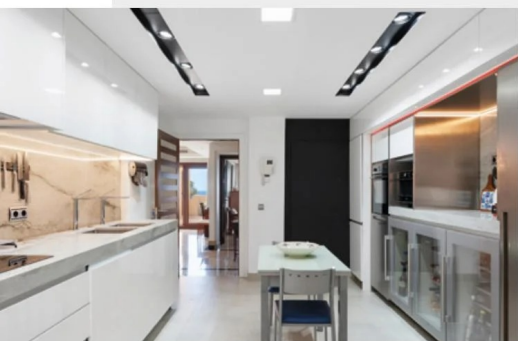


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WHAT IS THE SINGULARITY

AND WHEN WILL WE REACH IT?

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

These are exciting yet also somewhat scary times to be living, and much of it has to do with the mystery factor introduced into our lives by artificial intelligence (AI). Recently, Google's AI passed the Turing Test, which suggests that if a machine can converse with a human without the human realising they are interacting with a machine, it could be considered 'intelligent'. In a five-minute text-based conversation, GPT-4 was mistakenly identified as human 54 per cent of the time. Although the ability to mimic human language is just one measure of intelligence, the fact that a machine is capable of mimicking the nuances of human thought and language is a significant leap in AI's capabilities.

The singularity is another buzzword among those of us who are keenly following the evolution of AI. This concept describes the exact moment when technology becomes uncontrollable and irreversible, causing immense, unpredictable changes to human civilisation. The term 'singularity', explains IBM's Tim Mucci, is taken from

mathematics and indicates "a point at which existing models break down and continuity in understanding is lost." Machines could theoretically create new versions of themselves, leading to a state of evolution that we cannot currently predict or stop.

Turing isn't the only academic to envision machines with the ability to meet and surpass human intelligence. Mathematician, nuclear physicist, and computer scientist Stanislaw Ulam, collaborating with mathematician and physicist John von Neumann, shifted von Neumann's initial self-replicating robot concept to a discrete grid-based model that demonstrated algorithmic self-replication. This landmark in theoretical computer science is known as 'automata theory'. It provides us with the mathematical and logical building blocks we need to understand how machines think, learn, and replicate themselves – all of which are core ideas behind the singularity.

Engineer and futurist Ray Kurzweil, meanwhile, believed that the underpinning of the singularity was technological progress. This idea is based

on the findings of persons like Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel. Moore developed 'Moore's Law' – which observes that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles approximately every two years while the cost of computers is halved. This indicates the rapid advance of technology, though its pace has somewhat slowed due to the physical limits of silicon and transistor scaling. As noted by IBM, however, chipmakers are finding ways to continue improving via specialised processors, quantum computing research, and 3D stacking methods.

The singularity espouses that there is no reason why computing systems cannot exceed human capabilities. Many theorists have worried that the phenomenon could lead to machines making decisions that we are incapable of understanding and that do not necessarily align with our values or, indeed, our very existence. At the very least, the singularity would completely change life (and employment) as we know it, with some theorists believing human beings would no longer have jobs and would instead live off a 'universal basic income'. >



AI is by no means the only technology that could give rise to the singularity. Other technologies that could contribute to the process include quantum computing, robotics and automation, cloud computing and big data, and biotechnology and brain-computer interfaces. Nanotechnology, meanwhile, could revolutionise everything from robotics and AI hardware to self-replicating systems. Meanwhile, advanced biotechnologies could enhance human health and capacities, potentially merging with AI to blend biological and mechanical systems.

The impact of the singularity will be immense, impacting scientific innovation, human labour, and human-machine augmentation. The downside for us is that AI could reach

a stage where it no longer sees humanity as useful. AI and other technology could compete for the same scarce resources we need to survive as a race. Another theory postulates that all matter on the planet could one day be consumed by self-replicating machines.

Predictions as to when the singularity will be achieved differ vastly. Kurzweil believes it will occur by approximately 2045. In one large-scale survey, AI researchers predicted that artificial general intelligence (AGI) – a type of AI that can understand or learn any intellectual task that a human being can – would be achieved by around 2040. It is noteworthy, however, that just a few years before the rapid advancements in large language models (such as the

model that powers ChatGPT), scientists predicted that these models would arise around 2060. In other words, things are moving at a much faster pace, and some entrepreneurs predict that AGI will happen by 2030.

Notably, some theorists postulate that the singularity will simply not occur, owing to the challenges of achieving super-intelligence. After all, many factors are involved in this event, including hardware capabilities, AI algorithm breakthroughs, breakthroughs in quantum computing, and unpredictable societal factors. At the very least, the rapid advancements of AI and other technologies show that we are headed towards a very different future, one that we simply do not have enough data to imagine in much detail at the moment. 📍

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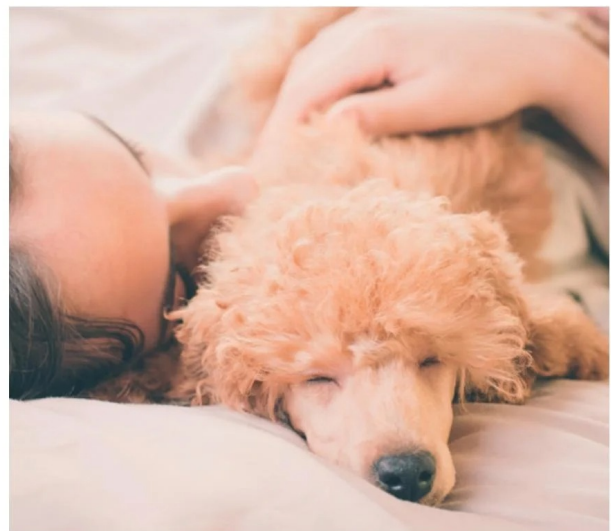
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« **BACK TO CONTENTS**

134 One of the Most Spectacular
Properties in Spain

148 Blackshaw – 20 Years of
Excellence in Interior Design

158 Blumarine Ready-to-Wear Summer 2025

166 Chanel Beauty

168 Dr. María José Bravo Zurita of Ginemed

172 How Pets can Help with Chronic
Pain and Breakups



VILLA BELLAGIO

BEVERLY HILLS GLAMOUR IN MARBELLA

We thought we were used to luxury in Marbella, and we are, but when you see this mansion, you realise that there is still a whole level above what we're used to even in this part of the world. It belongs to an international elite standard of properties that quite literally represents the very pinnacle of real estate on this planet.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ENGEL & VÖLKERS MARBELLA**



There have been grand villas in Marbella since the 1950s, when the international jet-set first arrived on these shores. Since then, we've become accustomed to the large, luxurious mansions in lavish gated estates, but Villa Bellagio is a jewel in the crown that takes real estate in these parts to a whole new level. It would be no exaggeration to say that this 13-bedroom property with a built space of over 5,500m² is likely to be the most exclusive mansion in Marbella – and therefore one of the most spectacular homes in all of Southern Europe. ›



Opulence throughout

This estate is located in one of Marbella's most prestigious and sought-after areas: Sierra Blanca. One can truly speak of an estate when you enter a private parkland of 14,000m² and follow a driveway to the villa's imposing forecourt. Here, the palatial dimensions of this grand residence and its Neoclassical architecture come into sight with full impact. In fact, it feels like arriving at a classic palace, yet Villa Bellagio is a recent masterpiece by the award-winning architect Jesús del Valle (recipient of the Michael

Prize awarded to him in 2022 by none other than the King and Queen of Spain), brimming with modern technology and comfort.

The sense of arrival is a sensation, with the imposing Corinthian columns that support the large pediment representing a pure reference to the architectural elegance of classical Greece. However, your attention will be grasped by another wonderful feature on the other side of the forecourt: a marble fountain that is the twin of the famous Bellagio in Las Vegas, cascades down the

landscaped hillside over several terraced levels. The visual impact is matched only by the refreshing sound of water splashing and dancing under the watchful gaze of Marbella's majestic La Concha Mountain. This spectacular feature framed by palm trees and deep blue skies incorporates a unique walkway in-between the flowing water. Though many of the grand villas in Marbella have water features, it is fair to say that Villa Bellagio's fountain is unique in this part of Spain. ›

The main living room



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A MANSION ABOVE MARBELLA

This could be the Beverly Hills super mansion of a Hollywood A-lister or business tycoon, but the sparkling blue sea visible from almost everywhere in the villa is the Mediterranean, and the shoreline that of Marbella. From this position deep within a private domain you can be in the downtown area and the beaches of the Golden Mile in under ten minutes, yet Villa Bellagio lies within the green embrace of La Concha, with more than sufficient elevation to afford views across the coastline to Gibraltar and North Africa. The sunsets visible from its immaculate lawns and a 22-metre pool that merges into the distant horizon are truly awe-inspiring.



Panoramic pool with open view of the sea



Step inside and expect to be amazed. The grand double-door entrance into a large imposing hall of double height with symmetrical stairs flowing down from the first floor is an iconic feature of the most luxurious of Marbella homes, yet little can prepare you for the sheer majesty of a villa that feels like an aristocratic home. Villa Bellagio is unashamedly classical – and there is so much that titillates the senses, from the expansive chandelier, the ornate handcrafted railing, and the inlaid marble floors to the mesmerising roofline and the view straight through the hallway to the sea and sky beyond.

The lounge, or should I say reception room, continues this theme of sensory opulence, flanked by large marble fireplaces for the kind of living room that only the finest properties will ever have. The same is true of the formal dining room, which connects to a 60m² state-of-the-art show kitchen in the suitably elegant style of a palatial country home. Its classical yet sleek look belies the latest in top-of-the-range equipment, complete with an informal kitchen with solid fireplace, direct access to a panoramic dining terrace and barbecue area, and professional service kitchen and pantries finished to the same exquisite standard. ›



Neoclassical styling by Jesús del Valle



Formal dining room with regal chandeliers

LUXURY IN CLASSICAL FORM

Besides 13 superbly styled and fitted bedroom suites with an open window to the Mediterranean, the mansion also features a television room with the latest technology. In fact, the entire property bristles with cutting edge electronics and the most advanced home automation, security, and entertainment systems. Four 40m² suites are located on the ground floor, eight 50m² suites on the first floor, and the master bedroom suite is a study in private opulence with an unequalled perspective of the sea. The luxurious his and her bathrooms blend classical finesse with today's comfort and a touch of Roman inspiration.

They include high-end Versace tiles and decoration, while the dressing room is also designed specifically for him and her and finished to perfection by master craftsmen, making it a functional and elegant gallery for the finest fashion, shoes, handbags, accessories, jewellery, and watches. In fact, it feels just like a private fashion design house.

The same can be said of the private spa on the lower floor. This entire part of the property is dedicated to wellness, incorporating a heated and scented indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, traditional hammam, Finnish sauna, relaxing areas, luxuriant treatment rooms, a professional hairdressing and

manicure salon, and a top of the range gymnasium. It is a wellness spa as you would find in the most luxurious hotels, yet this one is entirely private. The same is true for the entertainment areas that include a 22-seater home cinema with unmatched audiovisual equipment, your own two-lane bowling alley, pool room, and bar with relaxing lounge. The lower floor also houses the all-important laundry and high-tech machine room, but the real show stopper is the modern gallery garage designed to not just park but exhibit twelve cars as you would an art collection in a museum plus additional garage space for another 30 cars. >



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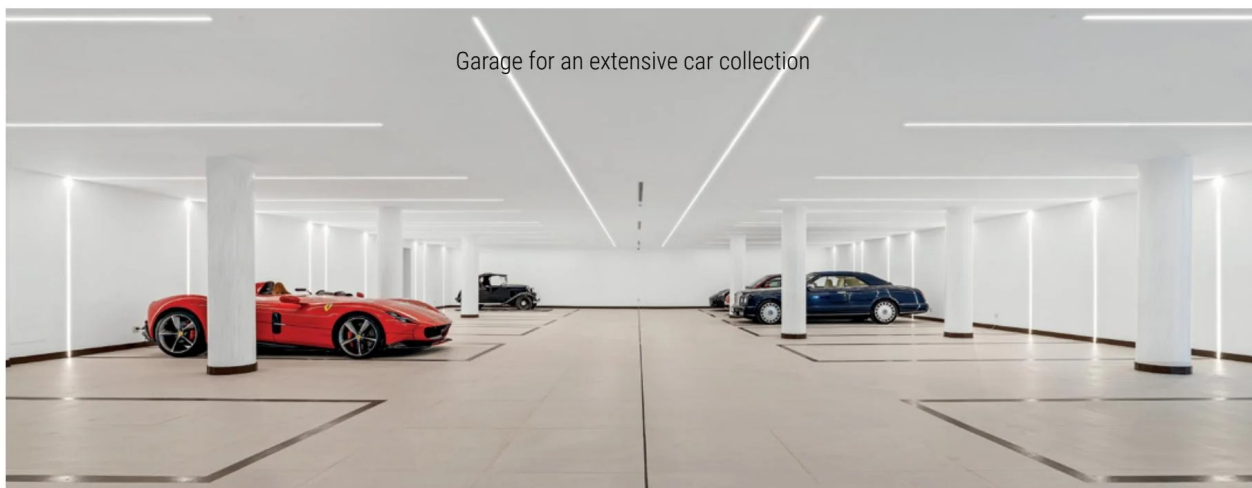
By ANDREA BÖCK

Only the finest materials – noble wood, stone, and marble – have been used in the creation of this unique villa, fitted with underfloor heating, integrated Sonos sound system, a bespoke Vantage home automation system, the finest automated irrigation infrastructure, and attention paid to the smallest detail. This is a mansion of unique qualities, an outstanding masterpiece of luxury even in a place as rich in beautiful homes as Marbella, taking the top end of the local real estate market to the next level of sophistication. ›





Elegant games room



Garage for an extensive car collection



Private spa

To put it in the words of Smadar Kahana, CEO of Engel & Völkers Marbella: “Villa Bellagio is a statement of grandeur — a landmark of architectural mastery and unquestionably one of the most exceptional estates in Marbella, if not all of Spain.” ›



The classical cascading fountain

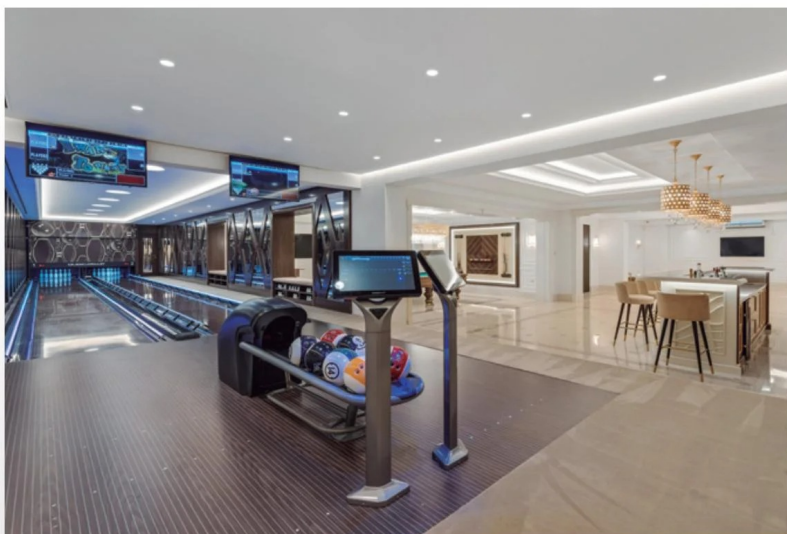
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The entertainment area with 2-lane bowling alley

Majestic details in the dining room



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One of 13 bedroom suites



BoConcept +
Helena Christensen

BLACKSHAW

MARKS 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN INTERIOR DESIGN

The Blackshaw Group has built up a reputation as one of the leading interior design companies in Marbella, but over the past 20 years it has also created an enviable portfolio of property development projects. In reality, Sally Blackshaw leads a 360-degree property business team with highly diverse skills.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **THE BLACKSHAW GROUP**



A Blackshaw construction project



Sally Blackshaw and part of the team

What started as an interior design studio 20 years ago has grown into a multidimensional business with homes as its focus. “I began with a small team, and now we are an extended company with interior designers, architects, artisans, project managers, and builders,” says Sally Blackshaw, who gives her name to what has become an icon in property design, styling, and redevelopment projects. She soon built a reputation for creative flair and quality, leading to referrals and more work. “Before long, the scope of projects led us to expand the team, and this is where the modern company was born.”

Now Sally manages a multidisciplinary company with diverse skillsets that range from design and project control through execution to final finishing. “People who buy or own homes in Marbella love the idea of walking into a key-ready property where every detail has been considered and lovingly taken care of, from large scale renovation work, furnishing, and landscaping, right down to personalised homeware.” Over time, her interior styling and furnishing projects evolved into larger commissions, and eventually Blackshaw became a business that not only takes care of decoration but renovations and construction projects too. ›

“Taking a project from a concept through the execution stages to final completion and handover is quite an undertaking, involving also obtaining planning permission, sourcing quality materials, producing soft furnishings and even furniture pieces made bespoke, and ensuring every little detail is in order before handover. From lighting and home automation to hanging one-ton chandeliers and making sure the lawn is perfect.”

Creating intimate spaces



"If you think of it, interior design is also project management in the sense that you're coordinating the coming together of many different elements and have to ensure tight control over budgets and timeframes." Extending that concept into the managing of renovation projects came as a natural evolution, and the successful completion of many older properties transformed into luxurious modern homes led to investors approaching Sally to take on property development projects. "Here

we either rebuilt existing homes or built new ones from scratch, using our understanding of style trends, build cost, and management, as well as the service that surrounds the delivery of key-in-hand homes," says Sally, "but there is of course the added element of working to achieve the ROI objectives of investors."

It's an added pressure that Sally and her team have taken in their stride, and this has produced close on-going collaborations with investors who work exclusively with

Blackshaw. "Let no one tell you that it isn't hard work, but bringing such projects to successful conclusion and seeing a beautiful new home take shape from scratch is tremendously fulfilling and makes all the effort worthwhile. Enjoying the confidence of experienced investors also makes us feel very proud, but you're only as good as your last project, so we work very hard to make sure that the quality of our work and the aesthetic of our designs is of the highest order." ›



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THE ARTISTRY IS IN THE DETAIL

Perfection cannot live without creativity, but even artistry shines brighter when every detail has been thought out and lovingly taken care of. "We truly enjoy design and weaving new trends into homes we create to be timeless in their appeal. Don't get me wrong, interior design and development projects are not always glamorous. There is a lot of hard work and problem-solving involved, but that is what makes a great end result even more satisfying, knowing that you've brought it all together and created something that

looks and feels amazing. I love giving investors the returns they want, or even exceeding their expectations, but there is still nothing like seeing a family enter a property you've transformed for them and sensing the emotions run through them. It's a very personal experience to share, and one that makes this job like no other."

Over the years, Sally has acquired a selection of honed contractors, experts working exclusively for the growing Blackshaw Group. These range from architects and builders to carpenters and stone specialists, as well as reputable brands

for providers of furniture and textiles to ensure the completion of her tried and tested signature style.

"Taking a project from a concept through the execution stages to final completion and handover is quite an undertaking, involving also obtaining planning permission, sourcing quality materials, producing soft furnishings and even furniture pieces made bespoke, and ensuring every little detail is in order before handover. From lighting and home automation to hanging one-ton chandeliers and making sure the lawn is perfect."

Contemporary
design with a
timeless quality



“If you think of it, interior design is also project management in the sense that you’re coordinating the coming together of many different elements and have to ensure tight control over budgets and timeframes.”

TRANSFORMING HOMES

Whether solely decorating or rebuilding an entire property, Blackshaw’s speciality is transforming homes into the best and most beautiful they can be. “For us, an apartment is as exciting a project as a villa, and every part of the property is equally important in terms of design and detailing. That includes outdoor decoration, home offices, and exercising areas, and not just in aesthetic terms alone. Good design is not just about looks, it should match form and function, which is to say that it should harmonise being attractive with being functional, practical, easy to maintain and keep clean.” ›



Sally Blackshaw, founder of the Blackshaw Group



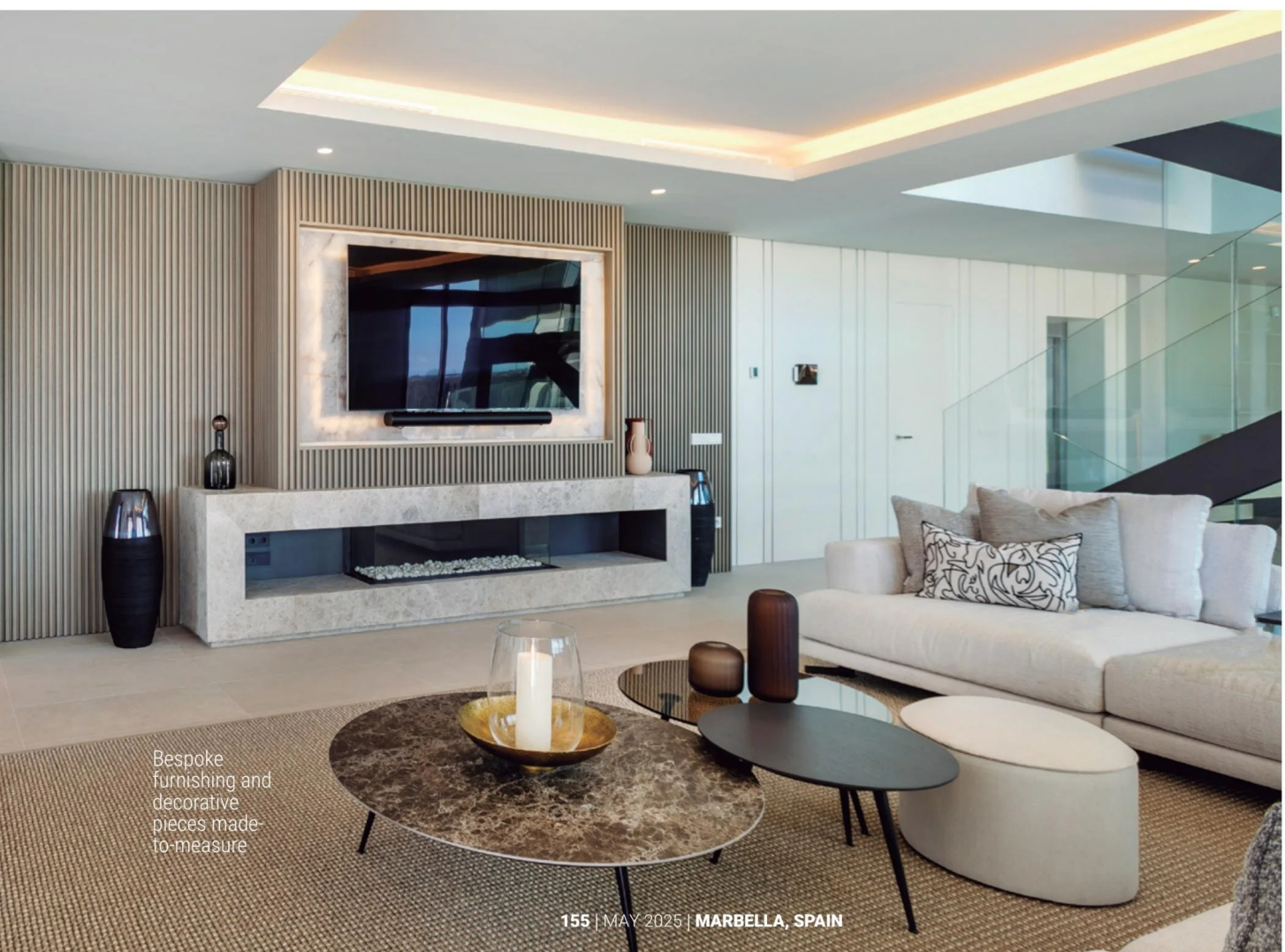
From interior styling to building kitchens to measure

These are among the considerations that Sally keeps in mind, along with managing budgets and adhering to strict timelines for the delivery of projects. “We’re all about making our clients’ visions become a reality, and in fact exceeding their expectations whether they are investors or homeowners, or indeed creating a new commercial space, as we also work on projects such as office spaces, hotels, retail outlets, restaurants, and beach clubs. It is this variety that makes our work so diverse and rewarding, and it is in the more commercial projects that we match design skill with our understanding of markets, the building of a brand identity, and what it takes to make a business stand out and be successful.”





Blackshaw also builds
swimming pools



Bespoke
furnishing and
decorative
pieces made-
to-measure



Sally and the core team

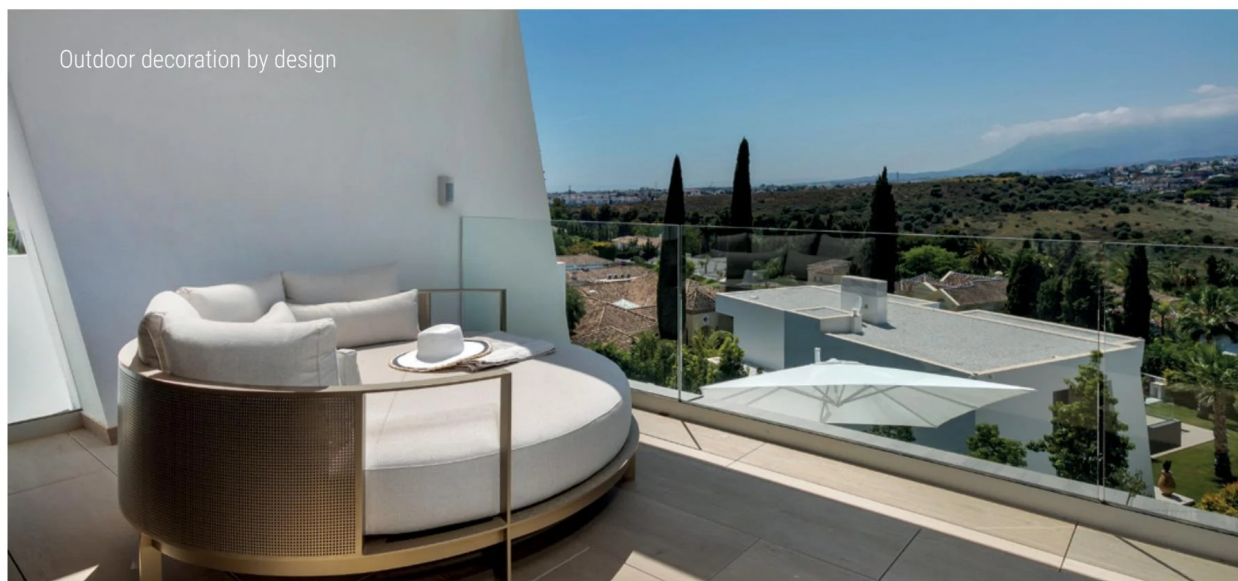
So much more than just an interior design studio, Blackshaw is a design consultancy that brings all these elements together, starting with creative concepts and then seeing them through to the final

delivery of a transformation that has been thoroughly considered and skilfully put together by teams of experts headed by someone with the eye of a perfectionist and a passion for what she does.

"In the end, it shows when

you love what you do."

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DISCOVERED BY MADDIE QUINN PHOTOGRAPHY IMAXTREE





In the ever-flowing tides of fashion, Blumarine emerges from a period of quiet transformation with a renewed sense of purpose. Enter David Koma, the house's newly appointed Creative Director, who ushers in a fresh era with a vision both fluid and refined. Inspired by the dreamlike beauty of blurred florals and the serene pull of the sea, Blumarine's Spring Summer Collection reimagines its signature femininity with ethereal lightness and sun-washed sophistication. This is not just a new chapter; it's a new current.









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1

1 – JEUX DE LUMIÈRES MULTI-USE EYESHADOW AND HIGHLIGHTER PALETTE

A limited-edition palette with four luminous satin-finish powder shades: a shimmery pink-coral, a rosy gold, a shimmery pinkish silver, and a shimmery copper-gold.

2 – NOIR ALLURE ALL-IN-ONE MASCARA

A new mascara that beautifies lashes with a four-dimensional result: volume, length, curl, and definition.

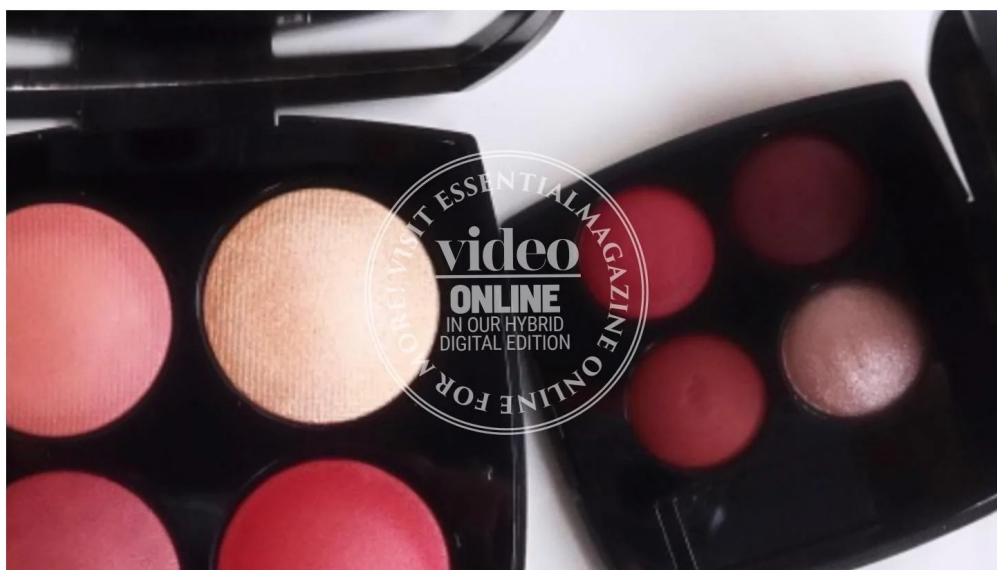


2

MIX OR MATCH!

CHANEL SPRING-SUMMER 2025

Chanel's spring/summer makeup collection is always one of the most anticipated of the year among beauty lovers. This year, COMETES COLLECTIVE member Ammy Drammeh has been inspired by Gabrielle Chanel's two signature colour schemes. The result is a collection featuring bold shades and unique finishes designed for customisable tone-on-tone or contrasting looks. Marisa Cutillas brings you highlights from the collection.



3- JOUES CONTRASTE INTENSE CREAM-TO- POWDER BLUSH

A versatile, creamy blush with a smooth, velvety texture.

6 – OMBRE ESSENTIELLE MULTI- USE LONGWEARING EYESHADOW

This long-lasting eyeshadow glides on in a single swipe and delivers a second-skin feel.



4 – LE VERNIS LONGWEAR NAIL COLOUR

A protective, long-lasting nail colour that mesmerises with its glossy sheen.

5 – ROUGE COCO BAUME SHINE HYDRATING BEAUTIFYING TINTED LIP BALM – BUILDABLE COLOUR

A tinted lip balm with an amped-up brilliance.





DR. Mª JOSÉ BRAVO ZURITA

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF
GINEMED MÁLAGA

HELPING DREAMS OF PARENTHOOD COME TRUE AT GINEMED MÁLAGA



Globally, approximately one in six couples experience infertility, one of the most important reasons being that women's fertility tends to decline as they age. After 35, the chances of conceiving a child naturally decrease every month, and the probabilities of conception dip even further after the age of 40. The good news

is that assisted reproduction has an impressively high success rate, considering all the possibilities. Ginemed Málaga, a clinic specialising in assisted reproduction with branches across Spain, is helping countless patients make parenthood a reality. We recently spoke with Dr. Mª José Bravo Zurita, who was happy to report that some 69 per cent of Ginemed's patients achieve pregnancy on their

first IVF transfer. Moreover, the pregnancy rate following IVF-ICSI (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection) is even higher.

Ginemed boasts a long and successful trajectory in IVF, having celebrated its 30th anniversary some three years ago. With over 300 employees and more than 250,000 patients under its belt, the clinic has changed the lives of countless women and couples, helping them bring new life into this world. The clinic has various treatments for

different types of families, including couples (mother and father or two mothers) and mothers alone. There are five main treatments offered:

» **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION:**

Placing spermatozooids from the patient's partner or a sperm donor inside a patient's uterus around the time of ovulation.

» **IN VITRO FERTILISATION:** An assisted reproduction technique in which the egg is fertilised by a spermatozoid in the laboratory (in vitro) rather than inside the woman's body.

» **EGG DONATION:** In Vitro Fertilisation treatment (IVF-ICSI) with donor eggs.

» **DOUBLE DONATION:** In Vitro Fertilisation treatment (IVF-ICSI) with donor eggs and donor sperm.

» **ROPA METHOD:** An assisted reproduction technique for same-sex female couples in which one woman provides the eggs while the other receives the embryos and carries the pregnancy to term. Much of Ginemed's success has to do with the quality of its staff. Dr. M^a José Bravo Zurita is warm, kind, and deeply committed to guiding her patients through their fertility journeys. She explains, "Women are born with a finite number of eggs (ova), which naturally decline over time – especially after the age of

35." She recounts that sometimes, women in their early 30s can have a low reserve of follicles (the small fluid-filled sacs in a woman's ovaries that contain immature eggs known as an oocyte). "At around this age, it is good idea for women to freeze their oocytes, so they can give birth to healthy babies if and when they feel the time is right." Dr. Bravo stresses that follicle quantity isn't everything; the quality of oocytes also matters, which is why taking action when one is young is an ideal strategy. "Freezing eggs when you are aged around 30 to 34 increases a patient's possibility of pregnancy by 40 per cent." She patiently explains the process of stimulating ovaries to produce more follicles and how follicles are obtained painlessly, then frozen or (in the case of IVF) injected with sperm to create an embryo. Patients typically undergo about a month of testing before a treatment is recommended. "We can usually run three cycles before recommending a different approach such as ovodonation if necessary." Empathy is a key quality in this

profession, and Dr. Bravo Zurita possesses it in abundance.

"Psychology is key when you're an IVF specialist," she says, explaining that there is a good reason why she is so well-suited to it. "I myself had infertility problems when I was 32 years old and was finding it difficult to get pregnant owing to stress, travel, and long working hours when I started out in medicine." She knows how difficult it can be to wait and wonder. "In the vast majority of cases, we achieve the desired results in one go, but sometimes it is more of a waiting game." She beams with happiness as she shares many success stories. "I have two children, and some of their friends' parents were my patients." It must be a truly special experience to look into a child's eyes and know you helped their story begin. "It is simply magical to be able to help moms and dads have a child." Indeed, it is easy to conclude that assisted reproduction is 99 per cent science and one glorious per cent magic.

| WWW.GINEMED.ES



Quirónsalud Marbella

reaffirms its commitment with healthcare with the opening of three new floors in the Singlehome building



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Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital has reaffirmed its commitment with the healthcare of its patients and visitors with the opening of three new floors in the Singlehome building. The new openings in these facilities have added 6,500 square metres of areas across the three floors, which have been designed to provide the highest level of healthcare. The architectural design of each floor has been planned to prioritise the optimisation of patient-dedicated spaces. The carefully laid out areas create large rooms with large windows allowing a constant flow of natural light.

Comfort, technology and functionality are the characteristics of the new facilities where special emphasis has been made on the implementation of a new system for the management and reception of patients. In this regard, Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital has become the first centre of the hospital group in Andalusia to instal the health management station. "This concept is based on the creation of a personalised patient area without the architectural barrier imposed by reception desks, offering our patients a friendly and warm space that helps humanise the admission process and promotes personalised reception", explains Doctor Miguel Ángel Ramírez,

the Medical Director of our Marbella hospital.

Doctor Ramírez highlights the active role the hospital assumes in advising and guiding patients since "with this assistance model, health managers can assist patients in a dynamic manner providing guidance and useful advice to help the patient make decisions".

During this new stage, Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital has implemented the Scribe project, an innovative initiative of the Quirónsalud hospital group that places the doctor-patient relationship as the central element of the visit, promoting direct communication with the patient. With the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence, the conversations between the physician and the patient are transcribed and interpreted. Scribe identifies the key elements in order to complete the medical history, filtering out all the irrelevant or medically-unrelated information. This is a powerful tool available to doctors and patients to speed up and personalise the medical consultation, optimising time and improving the experience.

And lastly, with the purpose of ensuring adequate navigation within the building, the visitor circuit is repeated on every floor so that patients and visitors can immediately familiarise themselves with the new space layout. The Singlehome building is strategically situated, at the beach front, providing a

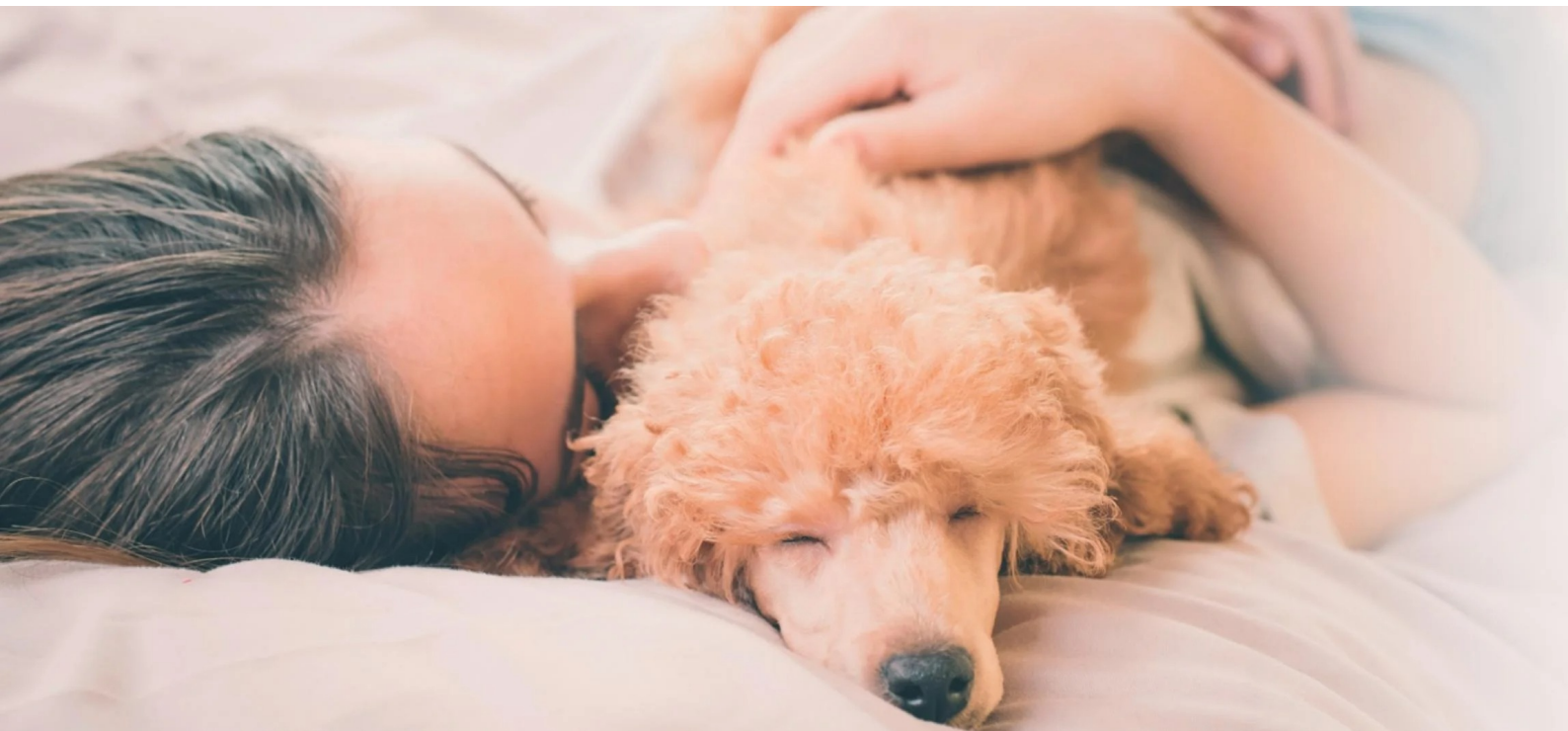
differential feature that works in the benefit of patients.

The consultation rooms are equipped with large windows articulated on the perimeters of each floor in order to offer users bright and relaxing areas in line with the most demanding quality standards. This design consolidates the healthcare model promoted by Quirónsalud that focuses on the optimisation of the processes, paying utmost attention to patients' private time, wellbeing and healthcare.

The opening of the three new floors in the Singlehome building is the culmination of the transformation of this iconic office building into the strategic centre for outpatient consultations of the Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital. In fact, the move to the new building implies the end of operations in three peripheral buildings situated near the hospital: The Quirónsalud Marbella Ophthalmology Centre, Quirónsalud Marbella Medical Centre and Quirónsalud Guadalete Medical Centre. All the specialities being treated in these buildings have been transferred and, in some cases, their capacity has even been expanded in the new Singlehome space.

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Hospital  **quirónsalud**
Marbella



WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

HOW PETS CAN HEAL

CHRONIC PAIN AND BREAKUP HEARTACHE

**“I TALK TO HIM ALL DAY LONG. HE’S THE BEST
CONVERSATIONALIST IN THE WORLD BECAUSE HE
DOESN’T INTERRUPT, BECAUSE HE DOESN’T DISAGREE.”**

AN ANONYMOUS PET OWNER

Around 27.5 per cent of people in the world are battling chronic pain caused by issues such as arthritis, nerve damage, injuries, and medical conditions such as cancer and fibromyalgia. Physiological conditions are just one piece of the puzzle, as chronic pain is strongly associated with mental conditions such as depression and anxiety, which can also

cause and exacerbate pain. And what about the pain of breaking up with a partner? The Holmes and Rahe stress scale, which lists 43 stressful life events that can contribute to illness, shows that separation from a partner is the third most stressful life event, following the death of a spouse and divorce. This same scale shows that major personal injury or illness – including conditions that cause chronic pain – classify as the sixth most stressful life event.

While medication goes far in helping those struggling against pain and heartache from a bad breakup, there are natural approaches that have also been proven to be effective pain busters, including mindfulness meditation, yoga, and the company of pets. One groundbreaking study on dog and cat ownership showed that pets can help curb pain in the following ways.

» **MOOD MANAGEMENT:**

Pets are often described as sources of support, protection, comfort, and patience, especially during tough times. Some study participants spoke of how pets were the reason they got out of bed every morning after life events such as the death of a partner and legal issues with family members. Pets can also improve mood because of the love, companionship, and sense of emotional connection they provide. Finally, pets can provide their owners with a sense of responsibility and purpose and allow them to feel needed in the best possible way. Many pet owners report that their cats or dogs bring them enjoyment and laughter and help prevent loneliness.

» **RELAXATION AND**

DISTRACTION FROM PAIN:

Many study participants mentioned that their pets' physical presence or contact was therapeutic for pain. Some stated that their pets seemed to have an intuitive response to pain, providing comfort when their owners were having a 'bad pain day'. Others noted that their pets distracted them from their pain. One cat owner stated, "I have to pay attention to them, and I want to pay attention to them, so it takes me out of myself, and I don't think about how much I hurt." Many also noted the sense of calmness that arose from simply having their pets nearby.

» **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:**

Studies have long proven that exercising can help alleviate pain. Pets help keep owners active by ensuring they head outside and go for walks. One participant mentioned that having a cat forced them to walk up and down a flight of steps to change their kitty's litter box. "It keeps me moving, even on a bad day," the owner stated.

» **BEHAVIOURAL ACTIVATION:**

The study showed that pets keep people active; they motivate them to take part in activities they may not otherwise do. Participants

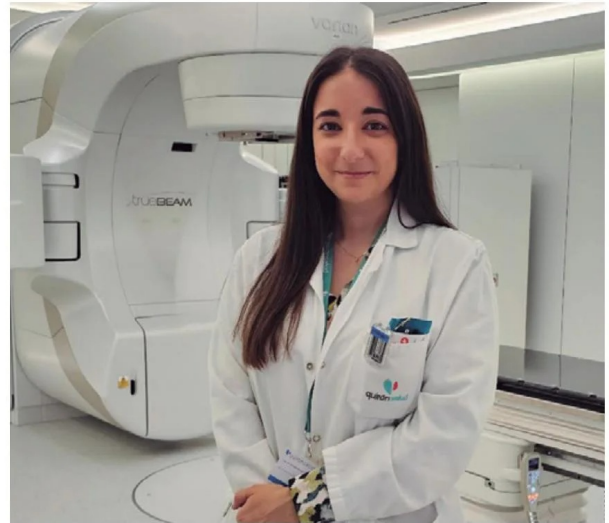
stated that no matter how exhausted they felt, when they'd get home and saw their pet begging to be caressed, fed, and taken care of, they felt an extra surge of energy and a belief in their ability to be responsible and ensure their pets' needs were met.

» **SOCIAL ACTIVATION:**

Having pets often allows pet owners to boost their levels of social activity. From meeting other pet owners in parks to joining online forums to seek advice, there are many pet-related decisions that involve interacting with people.

» **SLEEP:** Having a pet promotes healthy sleep, owing to the sense of security and comfort they bring. However, pets also help ensure their owners do not sleep too long. Most are early risers, and they prompt their owners to get up, care for them, and, of course, take them out for a walk!

Research reveals that pet ownership has a host of benefits that can soothe people when they are in physical and mental pain. Their capacity to reduce stress, offer essential companionship, and provide a grounding sense of routine can help heal a broken heart just as effectively as they can ease physical pain. 



Take a look at El Higuerón Resort's South Residences.
Consider factors involved in insuring a high value
home. Catch up on local business news, including Spain
Sotheby's International Realty having just inaugurated
their new flagship store on Marbella's Golden Mile.

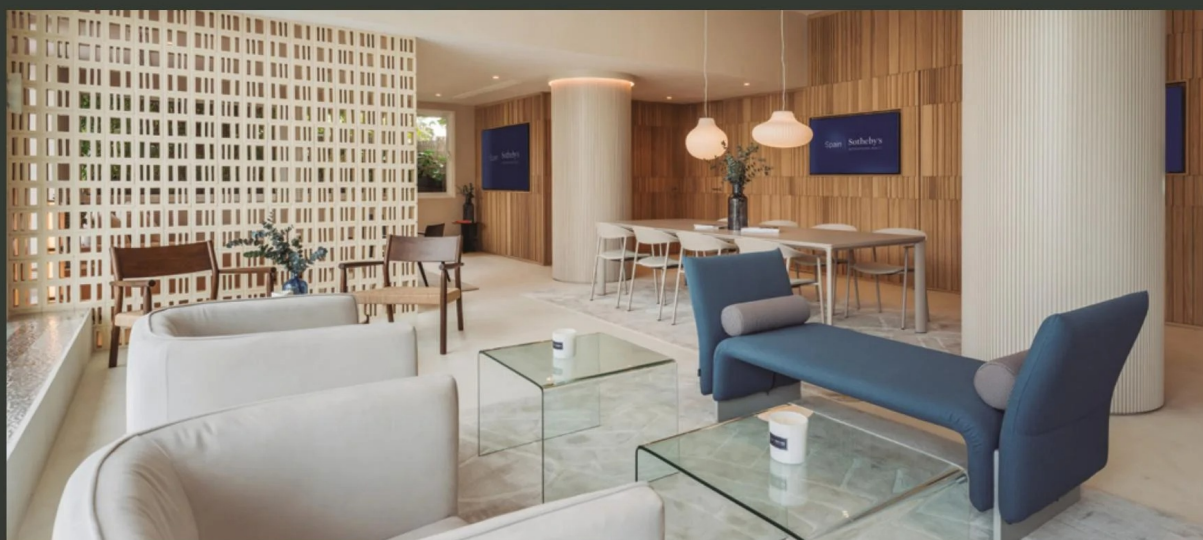
enterprise

« **BACK TO CONTENTS**

176 Spain Sotheby's International Realty
180 El Higerón Resort South Residences
186 Business News
198 Insuring a High Value Home
200 Vibe



SPAIN SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY *FLAGSHIP STORE IN MARBELLA*



Spain Sotheby's International Realty on Avenida Alfonso von Hohenlohe

With the opening of a grand new flagship store on Marbella's Golden Mile, Spain Sotheby's International Realty makes its presence in the area's luxury market known.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SPAIN SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

With the opening of an impressive new venue on the Avenida Alfonso von Hohenlohe, Spain Sotheby's International Realty takes its rightful

place within Marbella's luxury real estate segment. Ugo Bagration, Director for Andalucía East, heads up a team of handpicked, experienced professionals specialised in the exclusive market, with special focus on the prime locations of Marbella and Sotogrande.



Ugo
Bagration,
Director of
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Realty

"Sotheby's International Realty is an iconic brand, rooted in the centuries-old legacy of the world's most prestigious auction house," says Ugo. "It is synonymous with refinement, excellence, and a longstanding reputation for quality, and that is what our clients can expect in Marbella too."

With new ownership by Vivium, a Middle East-based family office, driving the integration of key international markets, the vision is to unify luxury living options for discerning buyers on a connected international level. "Vivium owns the Sotheby's International Realty brand in the UK, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Spain. We offer the world's most distinctive homes, facilitated through a trusted network of private advisors and cutting-edge marketing tools."

PREMIUM SECTOR LIVING AND INVESTMENT

The brand's special offering is the level of service, advice, and also the standard of the properties it can present to lifestyle buyers and investors. "We bring together premium markets, and this includes Marbella, now the capital of luxury real estate in Southern Europe, where strong demand from Northern Europe, the UK, the US, the Middle East, and also Latin America outstrips the available supply. A factor that is borne out by prices exceeding €35.000/m² in the most exclusive areas," says Ugo. "Marbella is well-established, but Sotogrande has also emerged as a priority market for Spain Sotheby's International Realty, offering as it does a unique blend of exclusivity, privacy, and an authentic country club environment rooted in golf, yachting, and ultra-luxurious homes." ›



Ugo believes that the sector is at a pivotal moment in its evolution, where exclusivity and personalisation are more relevant than ever. "Our international network allows us to offer clients access to unique opportunities across the world's main luxury hubs," says Paloma Pérez Bravo, CEO of Spain Sotheby's International Realty. On the Costa del Sol, the brand is particularly focused on high-end new properties and branded residences, two of the most exclusive and rapidly growing segments in the local market."

"Our network also provides a unique level of access to off-market property and investment opportunities, which are estimated at between 20% to 30% of all high-end homes. This means we can offer our clients exclusive access to prime real estate under the most discreet conditions."

Regional Director Ugo Bagration oversees operations in the Marbella and Sotogrande markets, building on over 15 years of experience in high-end property sales, relationship management, and the building

of strategic alliances. "I've had the privilege of advising distinguished clients across more than 30 countries, with a strong emphasis on the Middle East. I am confident that we will continue to elevate our brand's presence and set new standards of excellence in the region."

BRAND USPS

The international cachet of the Sotheby's name in global real estate is built upon the highest levels of service, know-how and discretion, a worldwide network that produces an exclusive portfolio of the finest properties, cross-collaboration with Sotheby's Auction House, and distinguished and effective marketing within its clearly defined high-end segment. "In other words, Sotheby's International Realty has the very DNA that makes it a perfect match for HNW and UHNW buyers from around the world, and they trust and feel comfortable with the brand. It is a close and successful interrelationship."

In a tumultuous world, Marbella and the Costa del Sol have emerged as favourite destinations for living, owning property, and investing. It is



a safe haven of quality living thanks to a privileged climate, natural setting, service infrastructure, easy communications networks, and a high level of security. "2025 promises to keep us on our toes, with a high level of competition, increasingly sophisticated and knowledgeable buyers, the ongoing challenge of managing sellers' expectations, and the growing need to embrace innovative technologies to stay ahead of the curve," says Ugo, "but the constants we can build upon are the appeal of Marbella, the value of personalised consultancy, and the growing importance of connecting luxury destinations – precisely the elements that we excel at."

SPAIN SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

AV. BULEVAR PRINCIPE ALFONSO DE HOHENLOHE,
LA POVEDA 1, MARBELLA TEL: (+34) 951 127 031
MARBELLA@SPAIN-SOTHEBYSREALTY.COM
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A NEW STYLE OF LUXURY AT SOUTH RESIDENCES

What would you do if you're an experienced developer with a panoramic location within walking distance of a five-star hotel, spa, gym and sports centre? That's right: create a residential project that redesigns luxury.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF HIGUERÓN RESORT





The serpentine distribution of the four buildings



If you think it's all been done in terms of design you haven't seen South Residences. Set within the Higuerón resort overlooking the coastline of Fuengirola, this stylish residential complex draws upon a blend of mid-century modern architecture and a desire for sustainable development to create something truly distinctive. But the geometry of South Residences does more than stand out – it is beautiful as it flows in harmony with the contours of its surroundings.

In all, there 164 two- and three-bedroom residences within its flowing lines, which follow the gentle descent of the hills down to the sea. They are broken down into 70 deluxe apartments, 49 garden villas, 25 sky villas and 20 sky penthouses. Using sustainable materials such as corten steel, wood, and stone, this complex soothes the eye and the soul as you approach it, and this is the accomplishment of a combination of inspired architectural design and landscaping. The sensually curvaceous shape of the construction has a fresh and exciting retro modern feel, while the landscaping is indigenous, drought-resistant, and beautiful. It exudes a sense of peace and harmony as you follow the drive to the main entrance, not too bad a way to arrive home. ›



The design concept of South Residences

HOME WITH FIVE-STAR HOTEL SERVICE

As South Residences is situated a short distance from the five-star Higuera Hotel Curio Collection by Hilton, owners here will enjoy the refined combination of home privacy in conjunction with a full range of resort services provided

by the hotel. It's the ultimate blend of home and hotel living, adding to which are a spa and wellness centre, a professional gymnasium with instructors, a poolside restaurant (one of several dining options at the hotel), as well as a sports centre with padel at its heart. Add a beach club on the nearby

coastline and it makes for quite a lifestyle proposition.

But the creators of South Residences have added more to this rich mix, ensuring that this is a luxury residential project that achieves top marks with regard to sustainability, as attested to by the Well and Breeam quality certifications, which are



only granted if a very long and difficult list of environmental requirements are met. Higerón is very proud of this achievement, which every developer would like to add to their credentials but most do not see through to the end. Sustainability has long been a commitment at Higerón, which blends this love of nature with a passion for art and all things beautiful.

A combination of classic cars and art adorn the nearby hotel, and can also be found at South Residences, where a classic Rolls Royce once owned by Alfred Hitchcock adds

further enchantment to the project, along with exclusive artworks that give the four blocks the feel of a gallery. In honour of this, they are named for the renowned contemporary artists Leiro, Brinkmann, Darko, and Alfil. The concept is unique in many ways, seeking to celebrate beauty and enjoyment in life, and as a result the structures don't follow the usual distribution but flow along the hillside slope in a more natural serpentine way, with a parkland landscape greeting residents the moment they enter this private domain. ›



VILLA STANDARDS

The apartments, which are broken down into a series of lifestyle orientated options, share communal sunbathing lawns and terraces, as well as large swimming pools, but also have their own pools set within sunny terraces that form the basis for a way of life made possible by the Mediterranean climate. The 2- and 3-bedroom Deluxe Apartments measure 90 to 117m² and feature spacious terraces with plunge pools, while the 2- and 3-bedroom Garden Villas cover the same interior space but have their own private gardens with unique pool deck and bar.

If these are properties with villa standards in terms of design, amenities, and finishing, the 2- and 3-bedroom Sky Villas

and Sky Penthouses take things to the next level, with expansive outdoor living spaces where large private swimming pools form the focal high point. It's luxurious villa living with more spectacular sea views even than those that can be enjoyed within the other residences, crowning the canvas for a lifestyle that is hard to better.

Quite apart from the many country club amenities right on its doorstep and the proximity to the sea and the resort's own

beach club, South Residences stands out for its design, the beautiful interior finishing of the properties, and above all a concept that takes the word 'lifestyle' to new heights.

HIGUERÓN SOUTH RESIDENCES

TEL: (+34) 647 533 826

EMAIL: VENTAS@

HIGUERONRESORT.COM

WWW.

HIGUERONRESORTREALESTATE.COM/SOUTH-RESIDENCES/EN



Lifestyle living. Imagine this on a sunny day!



MAGNIFICENT ESTATE

Camino Nicola on the Rio Velerin BETWEEN MARBELLA & ESTEPONA

THE SIZE IS 1/10 SIZE GIBRALTAR OR 1/3 MONACO. 615,000 M² / 6,616,400 FT²

Unique Commercial Farm Estate with Historic Roots

For over 2,150 years, this exceptional estate has operated as a **commercial farm**, producing olives, grapes, and mangoes, and has also functioned as a traditional **shooting estate**.

Access is easy via a **well-maintained asphalt road** leading directly from the A7 motorway, with the property located just **12 minutes from San Pedro**.



The estate includes:

- **Two houses**, one of which is believed to date back to Roman times.
- **Four garages**.
- A **ruined wooden barn**, previously used to store a helicopter.
- Several **outbuildings**.
- **Registered ruins and an abandoned hamlet**, officially documented by the Public Notary in 2002.

The property also boasts:

- Approximately **7 km of internal dirt tracks**, ideal for exploring the estate.
- A **3 km stretch along the scenic Rio Velerín**, offering natural beauty and privacy.

While the current owner has never applied for planning permission, neighbouring properties have developed **luxury homes of up to 15,000 ft²** over the past 25 years, in the style of **La Zagaleta**.

This is a rare opportunity to own a vast and historically rich estate with enormous potential for development or conservation.

ACCEPTING OFFERS, PLEASE CONTACT DMITRI (+34) 662 589 680 (+34) 663 405 867 marbellaland.com

business news

COMPILED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**



New Flagship Store for Spain Sotheby's International Realty

Spain Sotheby's International Realty, owned by Vivium – a family office based in the Middle East – continues its expansion strategy with the opening of its new flagship store in Marbella on Avda. Bulevar Príncipe Alfonso de Hohenlohe. The launch reinforces the company's commitment to the Costa del Sol and Sotogrande and strengthens its ties with luxury markets such as Dubai, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia. "The opening of our store in Marbella marks a milestone in our growth strategy in Spain and allows us to expand our footprint in Sotogrande. Our international network allows us to offer clients access to unique opportunities in the world's top luxury hubs," said Paloma Pérez Bravo, CEO of the company.

WWW.SPAIN-SOTHEBYSREALTY.COM



New Season, New Arrivals at Blackshaw

Blackshaw is pleased to welcome the latest OUTDOOR collection from Talenti to its Marbella showroom. A refined fusion of teak and aluminium, the DOLCEVITA collection brings elegance and versatility to outdoor living. Featuring hand-woven rope detailing, ceramic tops, and soft neutral cushions, each piece strikes a balance between strong character and sophisticated modern design. Whether transforming a terrace, enhancing a garden, or creating a serene outdoor retreat, DOLCEVITA offers living, dining, and relaxation pieces designed to elevate every moment spent outdoors. The collection is available in a choice of warm white or deep graphite finishes, allowing clients to tailor the look to suit their personal outdoor aesthetic.

WWW.BLACKSHAW.ES



Marcos Marin Presents New Sculpture of Poseidon in Puerto Banús

A brand-new, four-metre, 170-kilogram statue of the god Poseidon is standing in Puerto Banús. Created by talented Brazilian artist Marcos Marin, it was brought to Spain by the gallery owner Úrsula Salvador and can be viewed until July 28. After that, it will be making its way to Nice, France. Throughout his career, Marin has explored the endless possibilities of expression through portraiture and identity. In 2012, one of his most notable works, a monument dedicated to Princess Grace of Monaco, was unveiled at Art Monaco. The work was subsequently installed in the Le Jardin des Oliviers in Cap-Martin, as per the wishes of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

| WWW.PUERTO-BANUS.COM



La Fonda Heritage Hotel Celebrates 60th Anniversary with a Full List of Spring Events

As part of its 60th anniversary, La Fonda Heritage Hotel, the first member of Relais & Châteaux in Andalucía, presents a full schedule of cultural events for the spring. From May 8 to 10, the prestigious German interior decorator Bernard Biscontini Hasse, owner of the Be Beautiful boutique, will present an original collection of 20 ceramic, glass, porcelain, and stone vases by various artists at the Be Beautiful vase exhibition. In June, three events will take place: the LA RED CIT business networking event on June 5, a special programme centred on leisure, music, and gastronomy to celebrate the Marbella Fair from June 9 to 14, and a candlelit gala dinner and concert by Joaquín Pareja-Obregón, featuring piano and flamenco music on June 27. There will also be Full Moon Experiences from May 13 to 15, and again from June 11 to 13.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WWW.LAFONDAHERITAGE.COM



Carmen Durán Comunicación Opens New Office at the Estepona Port

Carmen Durán Comunicación has officially inaugurated its new headquarters in the Puertosol building at the Estepona Marina. The spacious location marks a new phase of growth for this full-service communications agency, which has over 30 years of experience on the Costa del Sol. The space also houses the new Diario SUR and SUR in English city branch. Carmen Durán, founder and director of the agency, expressed gratitude for the support of those who attended the event and highlighted the new office as "one more step towards continued growth alongside our clients, to whom we offer a complete, professional, and personalised service."

| WWW.CARMENDURAN.COM

Kronos Homes Launches 90 New Homes

Kronos Homes, the residential development brand of Kronos Real Estate Group, has announced the launch of Phase III of Capri, an exclusive residential project that builds on the success of Phases I and II with an additional 90 new units in Estepona. The construction of this new phase will begin at the end of 2025, with delivery expected between 2027 and 2028. "At Kronos, we create spaces that transform the lives of those who live in them. Capri is a reflection of this vision – a project where architecture blends with the surroundings to create a unique habitat, defined by cutting-edge design and quality architecture," said Rui Meneses Ferreira, CEO of Kronos Homes.

| WWW.KRONOSHOMES.COM





First Live Arts Festival Takes Place in Málaga

The First Live Arts Festival (Festival de Artes Vivas de Málaga) took place recently at four of Málaga's most important museums: the Museo Casa Natal de Picasso, the Pompidou Centre of Málaga, the MUCAC Museum, and the Colección del Museo Ruso. Curated by Pedro A. Cruz and Cintia Gutiérrez, the festival featured various renowned artists, including Niño de Elche, Daniel Abreu, and Miss Beige. The artists' works focused on experimentation, action, and audience engagement. The event also featured workshops and talks. It invited the public to rediscover museums as spaces open to the unexpected, where contemporary creation occurs in real time and in direct interaction with the audience.

| WWW.MMALAGA.ES

Lagoon Living Signs New Collaboration Agreement with the Olivares Foundation

Real estate investment company Lagoon Living has signed a collaboration agreement with the Olivares Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing comprehensive care and support to children with cancer and their families. The partnership aims to promote various initiatives in the fight against childhood cancer, focusing on the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of hospitalised children and their loved ones. Lagoon Living will be making a significant financial donation to fund the Olivares Foundation's programmes, which include psychological support, social assistance, and therapeutic activities. Efforts will also be made to raise awareness of the urgent need for further aid for children battling cancer.

| WWW.LAGOOMLIVING.ES



A New Chapter in the Evolution of Diana Morales Properties

It's an exciting time for top real estate firm Diana Morales Properties, with Pia Arrieta Morales and Mariano Beristain taking on new roles. Mr. Beristain, Sales Director since 2021 and part of the team since 2008, has been appointed as the new Managing Director and has also become a Partner in the firm, alongside Pia Arrieta Morales and founder Diana Morales. Pia Arrieta Morales, Managing Partner for the past 15 years, will be stepping back from day-to-day operations to assume the role of Principal Partner. She will be focusing on shaping the group's vision and guiding its strategic direction, ensuring the company stays true to its heritage while continuing to evolve. The company, alongside its dedicated team and partners, looks forward to new opportunities, challenges, and successes. Diana Morales Properties remains committed to its mission of delivering excellence and building lasting relationships in the real estate community.

| WWW.DMPROPERTIES.COM

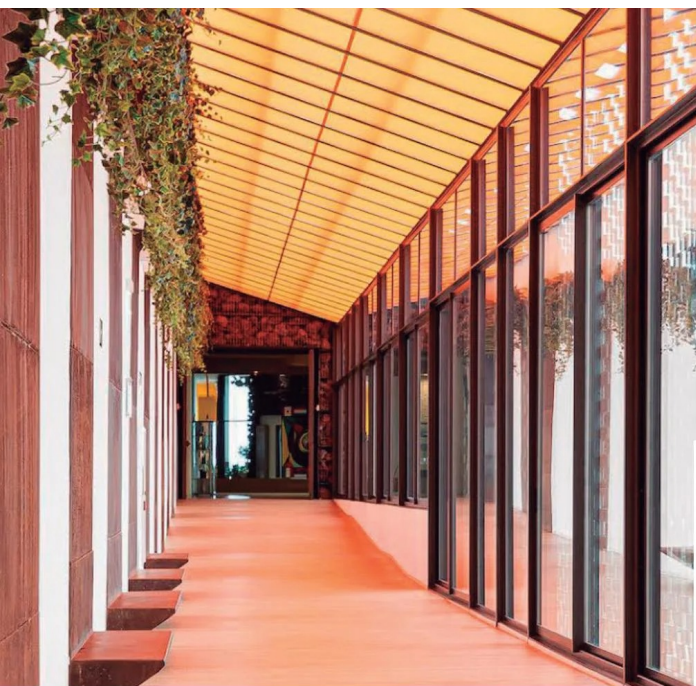


Fashion and Solidarity Unite at a Flamenco Fashion Show for Casa Ángeles

A fusion of fashion, flamenco, and philanthropy took centre stage at Casa Ángeles, the day centre for children and youths with special needs founded by María Bravo and supported by the Global Gift Foundation. The event featured a stunning charity runway organised by Nueva Moda International Model & Management, led by CEO María José González. The benefit was attended by María Bravo, who served as the godmother of the event. It featured stunning flamenco dresses by Teresa Ninú and a hand-painted series of white fans by Patricio Moreno. Beverages were generously provided by Zazou Belounis, a Marbella-based entrepreneur, former footballer, and long-time supporter of Casa Ángeles.

| WWW.GLOBALGIFTFOUNDATION.ORG

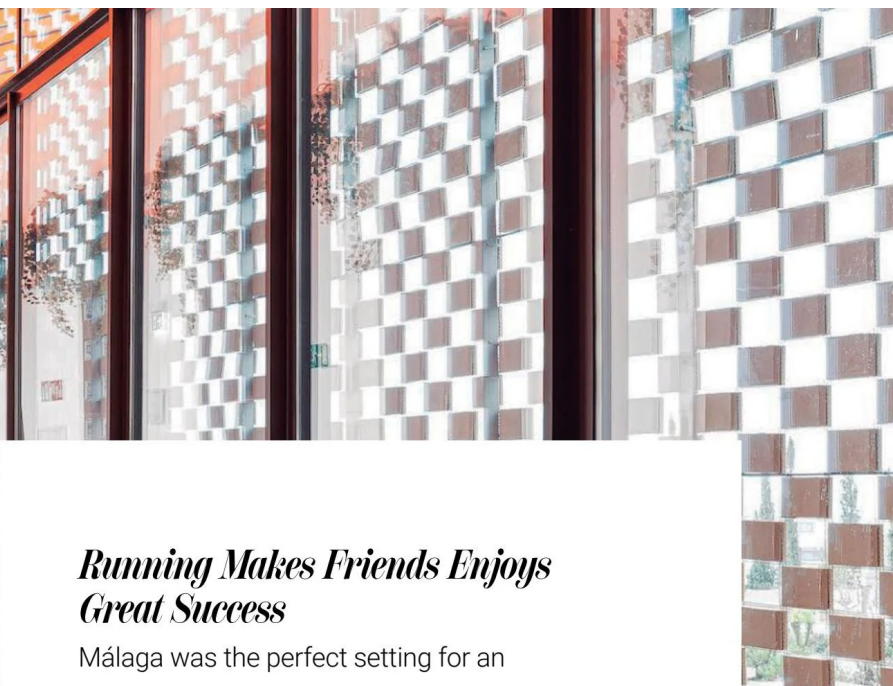




Open House Málaga Reopens the City's Most Inaccessible Buildings

The international festival Open House Málaga will open the doors of the city's most exclusive and iconic buildings from May 23 to 25. Now in its fifth edition, the festival offers a packed programme of free activities that will allow visitors to experience and appreciate the environments that shape their everyday lives. This year's theme is 'Architecture that Transforms'. It will explore the impact of design and urban planning on the city. An exclusive event was held previously at Higueraón Resort, bringing together architecture experts to discuss the relationship between architecture, sustainability, and luxury. Attendees enjoyed a unique gastronomic experience led by Chef Diego Gallegos of the Michelin-starred Sollo Restaurant.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVITIES, VISIT
WWW.OPENHOUSEMALAGA.ORG



Running Makes Friends Enjoys Great Success

Málaga was the perfect setting for an unforgettable day of sport, solidarity, and community, at the second edition of the charity race Running Makes Friends, organised by Grupo Mayoral in support of SOS Children's Villages. A total of 3,000 people took part in the event, which has already become an annual fixture in the city's charitable and sporting calendar. The Mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre, officially started the race alongside Mayoral President Manuel Domínguez. The Mayor expressed his support for the cause and congratulated the organisers for substantially increasing the number of participants in just two editions.

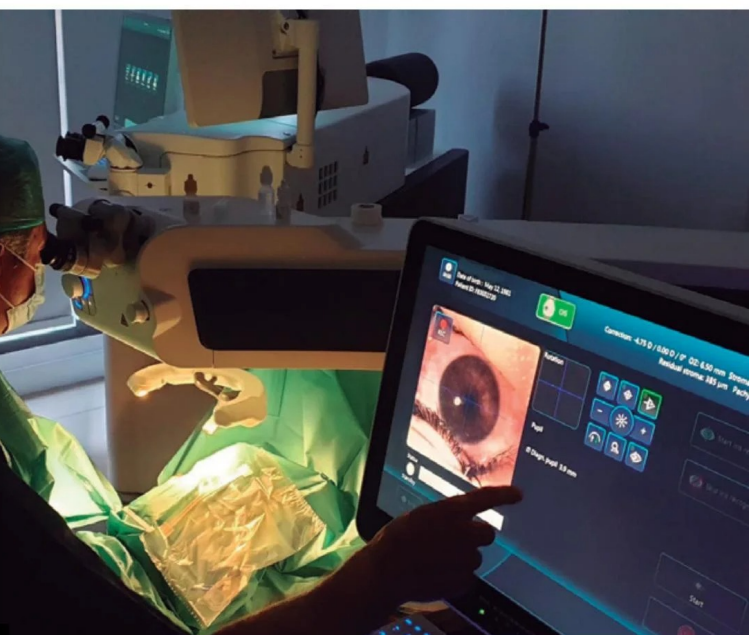
| WWW.MALAGA.ES



Quirónsalud Málaga Now Home to Cutting-Edge Personalised Refractive Laser Equipment

The Quirónsalud Málaga Hospital has incorporated the latest refractive laser, Octavius, into its Refractive Surgery Unit. The new equipment empowers doctors to offer a “personalised topography-guided laser procedure that provides more precise refractive results, minimising optical aberrations,” explains Dr. José Manuel Sandoval, head of the Ophthalmology Department. Quirónsalud Málaga is the first centre in Andalucía and one of the first in the country to introduce this innovative treatment. This addition complements numerous technological advancements made by the Advanced Ophthalmology team in recent years, such as the Victus Femtosecond laser, which provides cutting-edge treatments for cataract surgery.

WWW.WWW QUIRONSALUD.COM





McArthurGlen Málaga Ranked Third Best Performing Outlet in Europe and Number One in Spain

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga has been ranked third in Europe and first in Spain for brand performance by the 2024 edition of the Outlet Centre Performance Report Europe (OCPRE), an annual report by the German consultancy Ecostra GmbH and the French research institute Magdus. The ranking reflects the outlet's outstanding performance in foot traffic and turnover in 2024. "In just five years, we've risen to become the top outlet in Spain and third in Europe. That's a major achievement for all of us," said Javier Mendizábal, Centre Manager. McArthurGlen recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with the launch of its Patio Andaluz in collaboration with the Ángel Pericet Higher Conservatory of Dance, EADE University, the Antonio Eloy Professional School, and the Manuel Beltrán Modelling School. Visitors to the centre also enjoyed three days of live, open-air performances.

| WWW.MCARTHURGLEN.COM

Vithas Launches New Ophthalmological Institute

Vithas is proud to announce the recent launch of the Vithas Ophthalmology Institute (INOV), a new initiative that aims to become a national benchmark in the field of ophthalmology for patients, as well as a hub of research and innovation. INOV is part of the innovative Vithas Institutes model, initiated in 2021. The latter emphasises medical excellence, networking, the advancement of translational research, and teaching. This strategic initiative has been successfully implemented in specialties such as cardiology through the Vithas Cardiovascular Institute (ICV); neurology through the Vithas Neuroscience Institute (INV); and oncology through the Vithas Oncology Institute (IOV).

| WWW.VITHAS.ES



Quirónsalud Málaga Establishes Special Unit for Radiotherapy

Quirónsalud Málaga Hospital has established a specialised unit for radiotherapy applied to benign conditions. This advanced treatment is painless, safe, and effective. Radiotherapy is increasingly being used to treat non-oncological conditions, including joint disorders, central nervous system issues, other functional pathologies, and certain benign tumours. Benign conditions are treated with lower doses and fewer sessions than in traditional radiotherapy, depending on the needs of each case. Technological advancements now allow for maximum precision, minimising side effects, limiting radiation exposure to healthy tissues, and improving long-term outcomes. The use of radiotherapy for non-tumour diseases is becoming a more widely adopted approach in advanced medicine, focusing on improving quality of life.

| WWW.QUIRONSALUD.ES

Top LinkedIn Expert Daniela Luque Shares Knowledge with Dom3

The Association of Entrepreneurs for High-Quality Housing, DOM3, hosted a training session focused on the impact of digital communication on reputation and positioning within the sector. The event featured the participation of Daniela Luque, the top Spanish-speaking LinkedIn expert in the world. Luque currently holds LinkedIn's number one spot in the international Top Voices ranking in Spanish for her influence in personal branding and audience growth. The session, held in Marbella, revolved around the concept of the 'Architecture of Influence', emphasising how companies in the high-end housing sector can solidify their leadership through a consistent, honest, and human digital strategy.

| WWW.DOM3.ES



Vithas Hospital Malaga

The robotic solution for your spine.

Vithas Hospital in Malaga is the only healthcare facility in Andalusia to offer the Mazor robotic surgery system, the safest and most precise technology that uses minimally invasive techniques to ensure a faster recovery and a better quality of life.



Vithas Hospital Malaga
Av. del Pintor Joaquín Sorolla, 2 (29016)

Book your appointment at
648 006 491 or at
tuaps.malaga@vithas.es

The Ruta del Vino de Ronda y Málaga Is Deemed the Best in Spain

The Ruta del Vino de Ronda y Málaga (the Ronda and Málaga Wine Route) was named 'Best Emerging Wine Route' in Spain at the Best in Class Wine Awards 2024, celebrated in Tomelloso, Ciudad Real. The awards, organised by the WineUp! Guide, aim to recognise excellence, quality, and uniqueness in the wine industry. Other contenders included the wine routes of La Mancha, Cigales, and Sierra de Francia. The WineUp! Guide, meanwhile, was named Best Wine Guide in Spain in 2023 by the IWC Industry Awards Spain. All of its wine evaluations are conducted via blind tastings at no cost to participating wineries.

| WWW.RUTAVINORONDAMALAGA.COM



INSURING A HIGH VALUE HOME

WORDS **DANNI WORTH**

A home is normally one of the most important investments which most people make in their lives. And it follows that the insurance policy you purchase to protect it should match your expectations in the event of a loss, theft, damage, etc.

If you have a high value home, then a standard off-the-shelf insurance policy is not going to give you the range of cover, flexibility, and level of service which your property, contents, and lifestyle require.

Therefore, you should consider discussing your requirements with a specialist high-net-worth insurance broker who is used to dealing with large sums insured and clients with dynamic lifestyles. Some of the main benefits of choosing a specialist luxury home Insurer can be

summarised as follows.

» The high-net-worth insurer will normally arrange a complementary risk inspection within 30 days of inception enabling them to fully understand the risk, advise on sums insured, risk management, home security, etc. This means that should a claim occur, the Insurer was fully aware of what the risk entails and cannot wriggle out of a claim by denying knowledge of where or what the risk was.

» The high-net-worth insurer will offer all risks cover worldwide for your contents and personal possessions as opposed to the off-the-shelf insurer who will only cover your contents within the home and with very restricted coverage outside the home.

» The high-net-worth insurer will offer all risks cover worldwide for jewellery.

» Specialist all risks cover

for art, including death of the artist, defective titles, artistic depreciation, etc.

» No average clause whereas the standard off the shelf policy tends to penalise the insured for underinsurance.

» The high-net-worth policy will contain much broader cover and much higher limits – for example, up to €7.500 in cash, €7.5M liability limit, hole in one cover, loss of metered water/oil, etc.

» In the event of a claim, the high-net-worth insurer will use expert loss adjusters who are used to dealing with high values and the dynamic lifestyles of the owners.

» And above all, when it comes to making a claim – a recent survey by Europe's largest high net worth insurer discovered that 40% of claims paid under one of their policies would not have been covered by a standard insurance policy.

Perhaps one of the key

advantages is the commonsense approach which the specialist insurer and broker bring to the transaction, as opposed to the standard 'one size fits all' approach of the mass market insurer. This is particularly apparent when trying to arrange insurance for something unusual – a painting of considerable value or a particularly expensive piece of jewellery, or indeed when dealing with a claim. In these circumstances the specialist insurer has one point of contact who is empowered to make decisions and whose desire is to accommodate the client even if that means a more 'flexible' interpretation of the rules.

As you can see, a specialist high value household policy really does offer considerably more than a standard policy, and contrary to what many people think, it does not necessarily cost any more. In fact, on homes with values in excess of €3.000.000 and €300.000 for buildings and contents respectively, the cost of a specialist policy may be less than an off-the-shelf product.

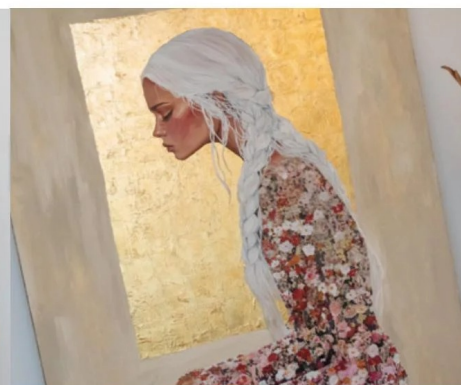
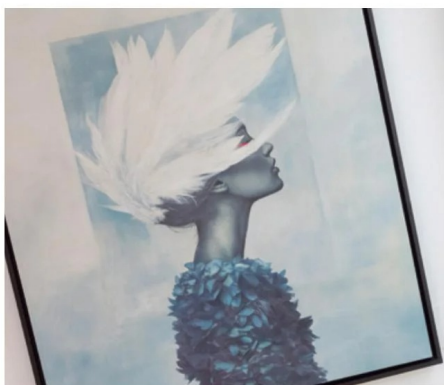
Finally, we could not finish this article without a word about service. All of the highlighted benefits would count for nothing if they were not backed up by an impeccable service, and this is precisely what the specialist insurer and broker strive to provide, which in turn creates the feeling in the client that they are dealing with someone who actually does care about them.

DANNI WORTH IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING PARTNERS OF OP DE BEECK & WORTH, AN ESTABLISHED INSURANCE BROKER BASED IN MARBELLA THAT SERVES CLIENTS THROUGHOUT SPAIN. HE HAS OVER 35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND IS RECOGNISED AS A BROKER OF REFERENCE.

TEL: (+34) 952 882 273.

WWW.OPDEBEECK-WORTH.COM





CAROLINE WENDELIN **ART EXHIBITION**

Talented local artist Caroline Wendelin recently showcased some of her latest works at the Palo Alto Club in Marbella. The artist met visitors attending the event and discussed the meaning and inspiration behind some of her compositions. The Palo Alto Club on the Ctra. de Ojén was the perfect location for the after work event, which featured drinks and snacks.

WWW.WENDELINART.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**



THE LUXURY **BREAKFAST**

The Luxury Breakfast event by Theresa Bernabé was held in the elegant confines of Charo Hallin by Marian Hallin, in honour of its 40th Anniversary. Invitees from local businesses and the press enjoyed an exclusive breakfast with many surprises courtesy of Privilege Chefs, and exhibiting partners Aqua Flavour, contemporary artist Mila Pierce, and Moke fun vehicles.

WWW.THELUXURY.TV

PHOTOGRAPHY **FOTOGRAFITI ART**

201 | MAY 2025 | **MARBELLA, SPAIN**



Indulge in phenomenal flavours at Makako in Estepona's Hotel El Pilar. Become acquainted with celebrity chef Steven Saunders of The Geranium in La Cala. Find out which celebrities have famously become involved in the wine industry. Catch up on local gourmet news.

gourmet

« **BACK TO CONTENTS**

204 Makako at the Hotel El Pilar
212 Steven Saunders of The Geranium
218 Gourmet Bytes
222 Celebrity Wines



SUMPTUOUS ASIAN CUISINE AT MAKAKO RESTAURANT

The boutique Hotel El Pilar, facing the iconic Plaza de las Flores in the centre of Estepona, with stylish Andalucian architecture, opened in 2021. Sporting multiple dining venues all of which are open to the general public, including Don Rudolfo and Casa Fina, the jewel in its crown is Makako Estepona, specialising in Asian and Pacific Rim cuisine, located on the hotel's fourth floor with inspiring views across the rooftops to the surrounding vicinity.

WORDS **JAMES SINCLAIR** PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**





W
 e arrived to a very warm welcome from the hotel's Managing Director Alberto Peláez and took the elevator with him to Makako where he introduced us to the Executive Chef Julio Gómez Fraile, who oversees all of the dining outlets, the Head Chef of Makako, Pedro Rodríguez Galvez, and the Maître Francis Hormigo, all of whom exuded friendliness and professionalism. ›



A SUMPTUOUS SETTING

Diners have the choice of sitting on the extensive terrace overlooking the Plaza, which is very popular at this time of year, or inside the venue with a full view of the lively staff at work in the open kitchen. There is also an upper roof terrace with a bar and scenic views of the Sierra Bermeja, from where some dishes from Makako's menu can also be sourced.

We were very happy to be seated just inside the doors to the terrace, below a stunning cupola with stained glass windows. The décor is distinctly Asiatic, with Areca palms and dark wood fittings including solid tables perched on circular columns, offset by curvaceous cosy chairs and sofas upholstered in grey, chiming with the immense floor tiles. The ceiling features coarse stretched linen with elegant wooden fans and spots nicely accentuating the different dining areas. ›





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FINE FOOD TO RELISH

The menu is relatively compact and although diners can select individually, many of the dishes are perfect for sharing and this is what we resolved to do, thus enjoying a communal experience that promoted great conversation.

We started with Makako's Dynamite Prawns and Almadraba Tuna over Won-Ton Toast. The former is a signature dish of prawns marinated in Thai fish sauce, sake, mirin, and organic soy sauce, deep fried in a dry chickpea batter and covered with spicy dynamite sauce, while the latter comprised thinly sliced Almadraba tuna seared with coriander seeds and spices on Won-Ton toast covered with

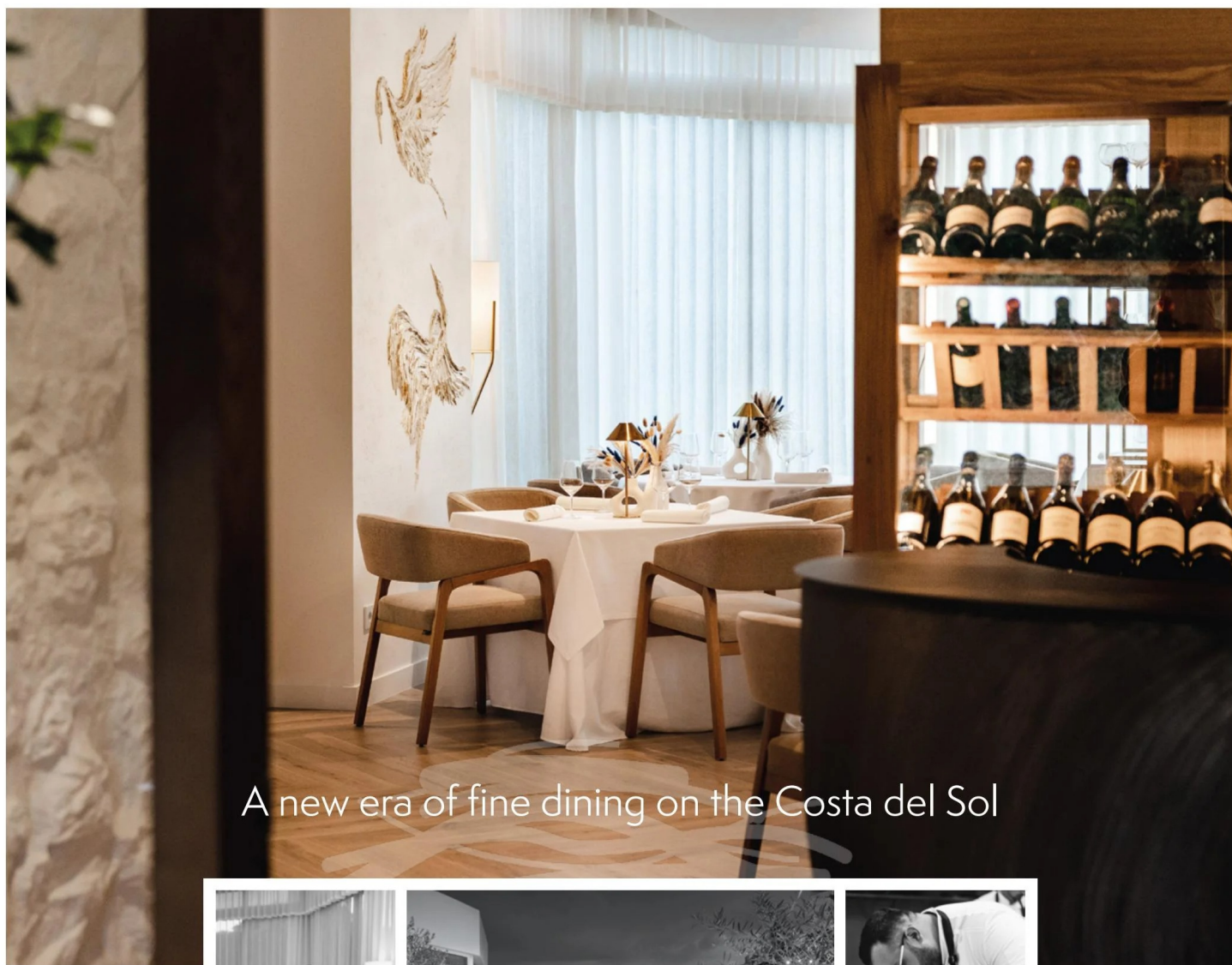
edamame hummus, which is a speciality of the house, finished with Sapporo beer aioli and caviar of local finger limes. These two starters flooded our palates with flavour and tuned our enthusiasm levels to the max for what was to come.

Next up was a delicious Ceviche from Lima, with fresh corvina, tiger milk, rocoto pepper, roasted sweet potato purée, and cancha corn. This combined delightfully with Spicy Salmon Maki rolls, made with salmon, avocado, and cucumber, with a spicy chipotle salmon tartar, tobiko, chives, and crisp shallots.

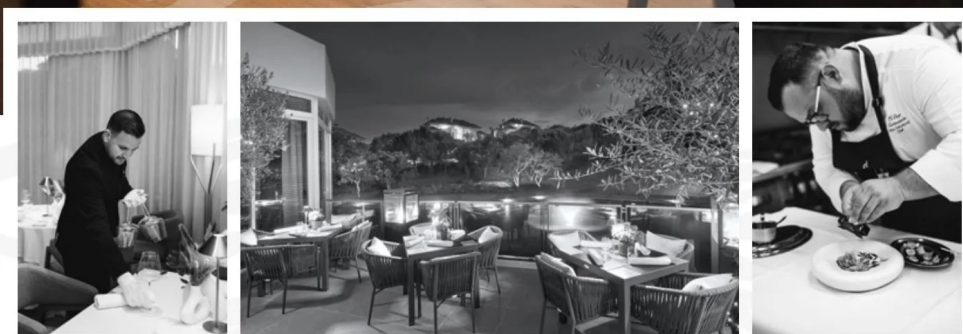
We continued in savouring a plate of Wagyu Beef Sliders – mini burgers with five spices caramelised



onion and kimchee mayo, alongside Pastor Style Chicken Rolls, an option of Mexican origin consisting of marinated and braised chicken thighs, grilled pineapple, edam cheese, and avocado lime purée – yummy! ›



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While we could have selected main courses of the calibre of Pad Thai, Salmon Teriyaki, or from a range of tempting curries, we opted to share a Sri-Lankan Black Curry with braised pork belly, black curry sauce from tamarind, black peppercorns, and cardamom. Served with jasmine rice and wok vegetables, this was simply sensational.

To cap what had transpired to be a great dining occasion, we finished with the signature dessert of Crème Brûlée of Black Sesame and Miso, together with an addictive White Chocolate and Lime Cheesecake – Mmmm.

The restaurant has a nicely curated wine list with selections available by the glass or bottle, as well as Champagne, Cava,

and Prosecco, beer and soft drinks, to match all dishes and suit all occasions.

This was our first visit to Makako and with so many great options on the menu yet to be tried, it certainly won't be our last.

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INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN SAUNDERS

THE CELEBRITY CHEF OF THE GERANIUM

The Geranium in the UK was frequented and praised by Royalty and celebrities like Rod Stewart and Pierce Brosnan! 40 years later, it is still blossoming. October 2023 saw the opening of Chef Steven Saunders' new venture The Geranium in La Cala de Mijas, two years after he was forced to close The Little Geranium in the town centre of La Cala.





TELL US ABOUT THE FIRST EVER GERANIUM RESTAURANT

"It is a long story, but the short version is that I was looking for my own restaurant after some intense training at London's Savoy Hotel. My fiancée (Sally) and I looked far and wide in the Cambridge area then we met a lady who owned a restaurant called The Pink Geranium that she wanted to sell to retire. Sally said, "With a name like that it surely must be beautiful!" and beautiful it was. It was three cottages restored into one fabulous, thatched 15th century building sitting in stunning gardens with loads and loads of Geraniums. Instantly I wanted to buy it and so I made her an offer.

I had an idea, and it involved the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who I had met previously at an awards ceremony. I telephoned her often and got nowhere until one day I received a call back and her secretary asked me to attend a meeting in Downing Street. I was of course very excited but also

very nervous! When I arrived at Number 10, I was welcomed by Mrs. Thatcher's entourage. "So, what is this business proposal you have?" they asked me. I told them about the Pink Geranium (I had recently won a Catey award for Best up-and-coming Chef/Restaurateur). Mrs Thatcher left the room and returned with a business contract for what she called a 'Young Entrepreneur Scheme'. "I will raise the money 100% she said". Shaking nervously, I signed up and returned home to Sally. Now Sally was a clever young business woman and she looked at the contract and said, "You've agreed to pay 17.5% interest! It will kill us".

Only a short time later the Pink Geranium had risen to fame with clients like Princess Diana and Prince Charles, and Mrs. Thatcher (of course), and Betty Boothroyd who lived in the next village. Pierce Brosnan visited us with Cassandra his now late wife, and Rod Stewart arrived singing *We are sailing* and talked football all night! >



Prince Charles (now King Charles) allegedly named us his favourite country restaurant.

We operated a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow service for clients because we were remotely located in a village called Melbourn, near Cambridge. Rod Stewart took the car service from Epping Manor, his home in Essex, and took the brandy back in the car!

The Pink Geranium became a must go-to place and we won a Michelin Red M and 3 AA Rosettes, putting us in the top 20 restaurants in the UK at that time."

WOW, WHAT A STORY! SO, TELL US ABOUT YOUR TV CAREER AND YOU HAVE ALSO WRITTEN SOME BOOKS

"Well standing in my kitchen at The Pink Geranium looking at the church opposite I had a dream of helping to create a new foodie TV show. I was already on the BBC morning show called *Good Morning Britain* hosted by Anne Diamond, produced by her then husband Mike Hollingsworth, who is still one of my closest friends. Peter Bazalgette one of *Good Morning's* producers had written a new show which he called *Ready Steady*



Cook, and he asked me to audition for it. In the early days it was just me, Brian Turner, Kevin Woodford, and Anthony Worrall Thompson. The show rose to immense prominence becoming the most popular afternoon show on TV and it ran for over 20 years every day on BBC 2.

While I was on the show, I wrote 11 cookery books, the highlight being *Chef's Secrets: Mastering the Art of Good Food*, selling over 750,000 copies."

A FASCINATING CAREER FOR SURE, AND SO HOW DID YOU END UP IN LA CALA?

"I was running a company that operated VIP Catering for Formula 1 at the top end level, based at Silverstone but also Abu Dhabi, Barcelona, and Monaco.

I was tired (after almost 10 years) and felt it was time to retire so I moved to the Costa Del Sol to my beautiful villa there and met and married Michele who became my second wife. She was almost 20 years younger and didn't want to retire of course, so I bought a little boutique place in Calle Ronda in the centre of La Cala (now called Figaro). We called it... 'The Little Geranium' because we were little! The Little Geranium won many awards including one that recognised it as one of the Best Restaurants in Spain."

YES WE ALL KNOW THE LITTLE GERANIUM AND YOU CONTINUED WITH YOUR VIP CAR SERVICE. IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND THE MOST

FABULOUS ADDITION TO THE LA CALA RESTAURANT SCENE, SO WHY DID YOU CLOSE IT?

"Well, Covid hit in 2020, and we were forced to close but we had to maintain the staff contracts which the Government in Spain took no responsibility for, calling it Force Majeure. During that period my marriage fell apart and I had to sell my villa and the restaurant, making it not just a heartache but a disaster! ›

I returned to the UK for a while and lived with my dear father. Then one day I was invited to my brother Stuart's blessing on the beach in Marbella. I went for the weekend, met a lovely lady and reconnected with friends, leading me to decide it was the right time to return to Mijas Costa." ›



YOU RETURNED TO LA CALA, WHY LA CALA AGAIN?

"Honestly I was heartbroken to have left. I couldn't sleep, I couldn't think of anything else. I also missed all my friends and regular clients that I had at The Little Geranium. So as soon as an opportunity arose to go back, I jumped at it. While here we rented a small flat and started looking for my next and probably my last restaurant."

FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT DAY, YOU ARE BASED OUTSIDE THE TOWN IN PUEBLO LA NORIA, HOW ARE THINGS THERE?

"I was nervous about that at first because we are not in the town centre so we don't really get many walk-ins, but that helps our business model. We are a Michelin-styled tasting menu restaurant. My kitchen is headed up by Chef Maurice who has been with me for a long time and is my strength – he is an amazing chef. I am still in the kitchen most days but some days I work the front of house, as I love my clients, old and new, and I really enjoy chatting and making them feel welcome. La Noria is close to the Feria ground market in La Cala. You can park your car or walk from La Cala. We can park your car for you, and we also offer our VIP service which includes a chauffeured

Bentley which will be available again this summer."

FINALLY, AS IF ALL OF THIS WASN'T ENOUGH, I HEAR YOU ALSO HAVE A COOKERY SCHOOL, A GERANIUM YACHT, AND A JET.

"The Geranium Yacht is based in Puerto Banús and we do exclusive VIP day trips to see the dolphins, snorkel, etc. I supply at least five excellent courses on the yacht which is piloted by Captain Jack, and we also include unlimited wine, beer, and soft drinks. It is a great VIP experience priced very reasonably. The Jet is a Citation CJ3 which flies from London to Málaga and seats eight people in pure luxury. My cookery school is held in my finca where we grow papayas, mangoes, lemons, limes, vegetables, and we have a banana plantation. It's a special day of tuition, some hands-on, a great learning but also fun experience. A four-course lunch is served with wine pairing included. An amazing must-do day!"

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHEF STEVEN'S RESTAURANT THE GERANIUM, THE YACHT, THE SCHOOL, AND THE JET,
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JOE FOURNIER'S JOJO'S BEACH *OPENS ON THE COAST*

San Luis de Sabinillas is now home to Jojo's Beach, a new 400m² beachside venue that combines gourmet dining and leisure in one of the most beautiful spots on the coast. Serving Roman-style crispy pizza, grilled meats, and fresh seafood, the project will create 35 jobs in the area. "Jojo's Beach will be a hub for those who want to enjoy quality dining by the sea in a sophisticated yet accessible setting. I'm thrilled to expand our brand in Spain and become part of this amazing community," said Joe Fournier. The launch date is slotted for June 2025. Stay tuned for further information.





NEW STARBUCKS AT VIALIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN MÁLAGA

The Vialia Commercial Centre in Málaga is now home to a brand-new Starbucks store, its 10th in the province. The new establishment has hired 20 new baristas and given its first 100 clients a special gift comprising a tote bag and a reusable cup to celebrate the launch and promote eco-friendly consumption. All profits from its first day in business will go to the AVOI Association and its work in providing animal-assisted (canine) therapy to children with cancer. Málaga is now the third Spanish city with the most Starbucks locations, behind only Madrid and Barcelona. The brand now boasts 220 stores in Spain.

WWW.STARBUCKS.ES



A CUATRO MANOS RETURNS TO THE HIGUERÓN RESORT

A Cuatro Manos, a prestigious event that brings together talented chefs from Michelin-starred establishments, commenced once again at the Higueraón Resort's Arara Bistro Bar earlier this year. The event, created by Diego Gallegos of Michelin-starred restaurant Sollo in Fuengirola, seeks to raise the bar for avant-garde cuisine, offering diners the chance to sample exquisite food prepared by two talented Andalusian chefs. Thus far, Gallegos has been joined by chefs such as Mauricio Giovanini of Messina, Benito Gómez of Bardal, and Israel Ramos of Mantúa.

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PuroSushi is proud to announce that it has opened a new space at the Puente Romano Beach Resort, where it will be delighting diners with Japanese precision, top-quality ingredients, and a perfect balance of tradition, technique, and emotion. Behind the project is Andrés Médici, a chef who began his culinary journey in Buenos Aires over 25 years ago, learning from master Iwao Komiyama, a pioneer of Japanese cuisine. Later, Médici became the chef at the Gvadalpín Hotel in Marbella. His son, Agus, who honed his craft at the Michelin-starred restaurant Hakkoku in Tokyo, recently joined the PuroSushi team. For the Médicis, sushi is much more than a technique; it is deeply rooted in their family legacy.

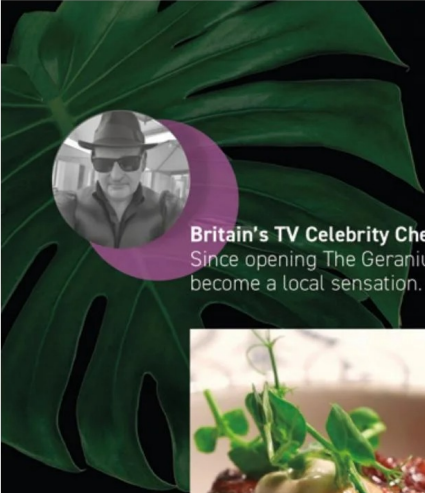
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CHEFSFORCHILDREN PRESENTS ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA *AT THE BENAHAVIS HOSPITALITY SCHOOL*

ChefsForChildren has officially launched its seventh edition with a special event held at the Benahavís Hospitality School. Participating in this inspiring event were renowned chefs such as Benito Gómez (Bardal), Mario Cachinero (Skina), Mauricio Giovanini (Messina), David Olivas (Back), Israel Gómez (Mantúa), Diego del Río (Boho Club), Irene Hernández (Anantara Villa Padierna), and Marcos Granda (Skina). The chefs spent the morning visiting the school and participating in an educational forum with young culinary talents. The organisation's seventh annual gala, held in April at the Anantara Villa Padierna Palace, saw eight Michelin-starred chefs from Málaga creating a signature dish for a unique tasting menu. Some 65 chefs also cooked alongside 150 children from Diabetes CERO and local schools.

WWW.CHEFSFORCHILDREN.ES





Britain's TV Celebrity Chef Steven Saunders is Back in His Pueblo!
Since opening The Geranium in October 2023, his La Cala restaurant has become a local sensation. A must-try for food lovers!



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CELEBRITY WINES

WORDS **ANDREW J LINN**



The best-known celebrity winemaker is arguably Francis Ford Coppola, revered for cinematic classics like *The Godfather* trilogy and *Apocalypse Now*. He made headlines in 2021 for the surprising decision of selling part of his renowned winery to fund a film. The sale netted him an alleged \$500 million, enabling the eccentric moviemaker to fulfill his lifelong

professional dream: bringing *Megalopolis*, a sprawling sci-fi epic that had languished in development for over 40 years, to the screen.

Celebrity wines exist to leverage fame and public appeal. If fans admire a celebrity, they will probably trust their taste in wine. While the phenomenon feels modern, it actually began gaining traction in the late 20th century, when a wave of actors and musicians launched the idea.



These wines typically fall into one of two categories: vanity projects or strategic partnerships. In the first, celebrities might genuinely invest in vineyards or production, taking an active role in the winemaking process. In the second, the partnership is more about licensing the name and image to an existing winery.

Does it work? A well-known name can ensure early sales, especially if backed by good packaging and a compelling back story. That said, longevity in the market depends on quality. A celebrity name might get a wine on the shelves, but only taste and value will keep it there.

Nevertheless, a vintner considering signing a celebrity, must look hard at whether the

celebrity is a good fit for the brand. Do they share the same values, and will they promote the wine authentically? A strong celebrity partnership can bring media attention, new distribution opportunities, and expanded consumer audiences. But a poor match can feel gimmicky or may even harm credibility.

» **ANDRÉS INIESTA – Bodega Iniesta** (Manchuela, Castilla-La Mancha).

The World Cup hero runs a family winery that produces wines like Corazón Loco and Finca El Carril. Iniesta is actively involved, and the wines are well-priced, export-friendly, and widely respected in the marketplace. Authenticity and accessibility make this a major success.

» **ANTONIO BANDERAS – Anta Banderas** (Ribera del Duero).

Initially a co-investor in Anta Bodegas, Banderas helped relaunch the brand as Anta Banderas, focused on modern Ribera reds. Though no longer active in the business, his involvement raised the profile of the winery internationally. A good example of celebrity sparkle meeting solid winemaking.

» **CARLOS FALCÓ, MARQUÉS DE GRIÑÓN – Dominio de Valdepusa** (Toledo).

While more aristocrat than movie star, the late Marqués was a pioneer in modern Spanish wine, and his fame in media and high society made his wines – especially Syrah and Petit Verdot – highly sought-after. ›



» **DAVID VILLA – Bodega Acontia** (with winemaker Maite Geijo) (Ribera del Duero and Rueda).

The former footballer teamed up with respected winemaker Maite Geijo to promote oak-aged Tempranillo and Verdejo wines. While Villa isn't hands-on in production, his promotional support has helped boost exports, particularly to Asia and the U.S.

» **LOLES LEÓN – Vino de la Tierra de Castilla** (Limited Edition Projects).

The Almodóvar muse launched a short-run boutique wine under her name with a Castilian producer, focused on female-led winemaking and bold Tempranillo styles. Not a mass-market brand, but a stylish, feminist collector's item.

WHY THESE WORKED

» Tied to well-known Spanish regions (Ribera del Duero, La Mancha, Rueda).

» Celebrity involvement went beyond just slapping a name on the label.

» Reasonable pricing and export readiness.

» Partnerships with respected enologists or wineries.

» Authentic storytelling rooted in Spanish identity.

Many Spanish celebrity wine ventures have also been disastrous, despite the star power behind them. Some notable international failures, either commercially or critically (or both) include:

» **CELEBRITY: FERGIE (BLACK EYED PEAS)**

The Wine: Ferguson Crest (based in Santa Barbara, CA).

What went wrong: Despite a

slick launch and decent reviews early on, the brand struggled with marketing and distribution.

» **CELEBRITY: DREW BARRYMORE**

The Wine: Barrymore Pinot Grigio.

What went wrong: The wine was part of a brief partnership with Carmel Road, but it received only lukewarm reviews and quietly vanished from the market.

» **CELEBRITY: FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA**

The Wine: Sofia in pink cans, named after his daughter.

What went wrong: While Coppola's core wine portfolio is a commercial success, the Sofia mini-cans got mocked for being gimmicky.

» **CELEBRITY: STING**

The Wine: Il Palagio (Tuscany).

What went wrong: In its early days, Il Palagio wines received scathing reviews. (*The Guardian* once said they 'tasted like rusty nails'). Sting hired new winemakers and turned things around – now the wines are highly regarded.

» **CELEBRITY: NICKI MINAJ**

The Wine: A sweet, fruit-flavored Moscato aimed at younger drinkers.

What went wrong: It was a brief trend during the Moscato boom (early 2010s), but as the trend faded, so did the brand's appeal. 🍷



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